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The new man in
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THE TIMES

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16 1992

45p

UN fine-tunes resolution

Nato prepares for air attack against Serbia

By NICHOLAS WOOD
AND MICHAEL BINYON

NATO yesterday moved to draw up contingency plans to stop the spread of fighting in former Yugoslavia, on the eve of an international conference in Geneva that will look at the military options for stemming Serbian aggression.

As pressure mounted for intervention and the enforcement of the "no-fly" zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Western members of the United Nations Security Council worked on a resolution allowing Serbian aircraft violating the "no-fly" zone to be shot down.

Britain continued to voice strong reservations, in Westminster and at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in Stockholm. John Major told MPs

Today's Geneva conference will be a crucial step in deciding whether military action is to be taken to stem Serbian aggression in Bosnia. Britain is reluctant, but international pressure is building

stock of the slow peace negotiations. Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, the two mediators, are likely to oppose outside military intervention, which they believe will wreck the chance of further negotiations.

Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, has written to Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary-general, asking Nato to keep the UN informed about further military action in Bosnia. The 16 ambassadors of the Nato member states, including France, agreed in Brussels yesterday to begin formal military planning on Monday for the first time. The priorities are: how to use aircraft to enforce the UN ban on military flights over Bosnia; creating safe havens for civilians; and preventing the war spreading to areas like Macedonia and Kosovo.

Nato's contingency plans do not yet include sending in large numbers of combat troops to try to end the fighting.

Enforcement of the "no-fly" zone could pose serious difficulties for the Americans. Of the 230 or so flights which have been spotted since the UN ban on October 3, not all have been Serbian violations.

Pressure on the government to support direct Western intervention grew after John Smith told Parliament that the "appalling suffering" in Bosnia justified the limited use of force. The Labour leader sided with Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, and the steadily growing number of Conservative MPs demanding military action.

Mr Ashdown, speaking in a BBC radio interview from Sarajevo, said that the city was dying a slow death. Britain had the power to bring peace; its "shame" was that it had decided it was not worth it.

Britain has some 2,500 troops in Bosnia guarding the convoys, more than any other

country, and ministers are reluctant to expose them to even greater risks. Mr Major said: "We have to weigh the desirability of enforcing a 'no-fly' zone against the possible impact of that on the UN humanitarian effort and on the safety of our own troops."

A plea by the government of Bosnia to lift the UN's arms embargo fell on deaf ears at the Stockholm meeting yesterday. Mr Hurd said: "We would be against anything which poured more weapons into a part of Europe which is already full of weapons."

The final declaration adopted by the CSCE conveys the request of "some states" that the security council "continues to consider lifting the arms embargo against the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina". Russia reportedly led a group opposed to stronger action on the issue of an arms embargo.

The CSCE also called for the creation of safe areas for the protection of Bosnian civilians; decided to increase the size of CSCE missions in Kosovo, Sandjak, Vojvodina and Macedonia; and warned leaders of Serbia that if their aggressive policies continued "sterner action" would be taken to ensure compliance with relevant UN resolutions.

Mr Hurd will today arrive in Geneva from Stockholm, going on tomorrow to Brussels for a Nato foreign ministers' meeting which will discuss ways of developing the alliance's integrated military structure for "crisis management".

However, the French, who are not part of the integrated structure, are saying that peacekeeping is a new role for the alliance and they insist that a different decision-making system is needed.

Sarajevo defiant, page 9
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Abducted Israeli policeman killed

FROM BEN LYNNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI soldiers yesterday recovered the bound body of a policeman two days after he was kidnapped near Tel Aviv by Muslim fundamentalist gunmen seeking the release of a jailed leader.

Israel Radio said a preliminary examination showed Staff Sergeant Nissim Toledano had been strangled and stabbed on Monday. His body, left near a road between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea in the occupied West Bank, was found by a Bedouin woman.

The abductors threatened on Sunday to kill the sergeant unless Shaikh Ahmed Yassin, founder of the Hamas Islamic Resistance Movement, was set free by Israeli authorities. He is serving a life sentence.

The body was found as security forces completed a sweep against Hamas activists, arresting 1,200 Palestinians in a crackdown that appeared to go beyond seeking clues about the abduction. Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, told parliament: "Toledano was killed despite the readiness of Israel to talk with the kidnappers". The killing also went

against the explicit instructions of Shaikh Yassin, who urged the kidnappers from his cell to give negotiations a chance. The shaikh, who is wheelchair-bound, was convicted last year of ordering the killing of alleged Palestinian collaborators.

Right-wing MPs reacted sharply to the killing, the first of its kind since Hamas militants kidnapped two soldiers in 1989. One of the bodies was never found.

Rafael Eitan, leader of the far-right Tsomet party, said: "I would now take Shaikh Yassin before a military tribunal, give him a death sentence, and execute him." But Mr Rabin urged calm and said the government would combat Hamas and other militant groups while keeping up efforts to reach Arab-Israeli peace agreements.

Police last night reinforced units countrywide to deter reprisals after crowds chanted "Death to the Arabs" in Lod, Toledano's home town, which is a mixed community.

Activists jailed, page 11



Drop of life: a Somali mother helping her daughter to drink from a plastic water container while washing her yesterday on the road near a Baidoa feeding centre

Bishop ordered to rest

By PETER VICTOR

THE Bishop of Gloucester was resting yesterday on the orders of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, after being arrested and questioned by police in connection with an allegation of indecency with a novice monk. The Gloucester diocese confirmed that the Right Reverend Peter Ball, 60, was questioned and released.

Inspector Mike Pennington, of Gloucester police, said: "I can confirm that, after a complaint of indecency, we arrested a 60-year-old man. After questioning, he was released without charge on bail pending further inquiries." Scotland Yard confirmed it had received an initial complaint, reportedly from a 17-year-old novice, at Brixton

police station on Saturday morning, and said the matter had been turned over to Gloucestershire police. The Church will hold its own enquiry.

Bishop Ball, one of the most colourful characters in the House of Bishops, shuns the robes of office in favour of a simple monk's habit. He is an identical twin - his appointment as Bishop of Gloucester last year came after the enthronement in 1990 of his brother, the Right Reverend Michael Ball, as Bishop of Truro.

Canon Andy Radford, Gloucester diocesan press officer, said: "Allegations of indecent behaviour have apparently been made by one

Continued on page 2, col 5

Gunmen strike as Baidoa awaits aid

FROM SAM KILEY
IN BAIDOA

BULLETS slammed yesterday into the walls of the compound owned by the Irish charity Goal. We scrambled desperately for cover in the cramped corridor of the fortified bungalow. American troops are beginning to fan out from Mogadishu, but slowly and belatedly. The gunmen are still running amok.

The attack, by some of the agency's own guards, appeared to have been a mistake - part of the anarchy which is Somalia. The dispute erupted after one local Somali manager accused another of stealing \$2,000 from the agency.

One manager leapt a wall, and has not been seen since. In the dark tropical night, armed supporters of the two men collided and opened fire.

A bodyguard employed by The Times, Nur Ahmed Osman, 19, was shot in the thigh during the mayhem. Journalists became medics. He was injected with valium and taken to the (still functioning) Baidoa hospital. Relatives expect him to be paid at least \$500. Westerners call it compensation.

This was the second night attack since Goal was evacuated under protest by its Dublin headquarters. Since the United States announced its intention to end the civil war and get supplies to two million starving people, few aid agencies in Baidoa have escaped the gunmen.

Looting is not the sole motivation. Sometimes attacks involve grudges; at others they seem spontaneous combustions of ancient clan rivalries. US troops were expected here early this morning. Last night we waited, the stillness broken by the unmistakable sound of weapons being cleaned and cocked.

Troops cheered, page 11

Yeltsin claims his reforms are still on course

FROM ANNE McELVOY
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin of Russia yesterday sought to reassure supporters at home and abroad that they need not fear for continuation of his reforms, even though he has been forced to accept Viktor Chernomyrdin, a conservative, as his prime minister.

At a Kremlin meeting with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, he said that commitment to the free market had been maintained despite the threat from the Congress of People's Deputies. "The main result was that we managed to maintain our reform course despite great pressure from the conservative wing ... of course both Congress and the president were obliged to make certain compromises, but in politics that is an ordinary occurrence."

Congress ended its extended convention on Monday by rejecting Mr Yeltsin's call to confirm Yegor Gaidar, the radical economist, as prime minister and favouring Mr Chernomyrdin, who is considered to represent the interests of the powerful industrial lobby. Key cabinet ministers who threatened to resign if Mr Gaidar was dropped yesterday were waiting to hear more of the new leader's plans.

Mr Yeltsin was clearly relieved to be over his battles with the legislature. He left on Monday without the traditional closing speech, telling aides he had nothing more to say.

His decision to withdraw his support for Mr Gaidar brought upon him the wrath of many hitherto loyal democrats; it risks losing him the broad support of the liberal Democratic Russia movement which helped him to power. Father Gleb Yakunin, an avid

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RAC
CAHOME NEWS

Smart rap on the knuckles for the slow-learners

It was an educational day in the chamber, but hardly a lesson in the most up-to-date teaching methods. There were questions to John Patten, the education secretary, and a move by the government to shrink the debating period for the lengthy education bill, a sort of revised timetable for timetables.

Of course, one does not go to the House of Commons to savor up on the latest educational techniques, any more than one drops in on the House of Windsor for advice on marital harmony. But a brief visit by a few schools inspectors might be all that is needed to bring the chamber up to scratch on current classroom thinking.

It may be time that MPs wore their learning less lightly: a case less of "physician, heal thyself", more of "educators, sit down and take notes". On

the face of it, one might well consider the Commons nothing but a glorified classroom. There was Patten, dressed in his grey suit, and a face that swings from the dark look of a master about to deliver a caning to the warm smile of a headteacher dishing out silver cups on prize day.

Fidgety boys sit in the back rows: cheeky ones chatter throughout. Nicholas Soames, the food minister, sat nursing a bandaged index finger, presumably stuck in one plum pie too many from the tuck shop. A few select girls are allowed in to the upper sixth to inject an element of co-education.

Most pupils wear the uniform of dark suit. Teacher's pets shoot up their arms to ask questions, slouches are caught out (yesterday it was the tousle-haired Conservative Michael Fabricant who went red and began to splutter when sud-

JOE JOSEPH
POLITICAL SKETCH

denly chosen to speak — "a seasonal gesture of goodwill", explained Madam Speaker.

Had the school inspectors stayed on for the indiscipline of prime minister's questions, or, worse, for John MacGregor, the transport secretary, giving a statement on government funding for local road projects or, worse still, John Prescott's response for Labour, they might have forced the Commons to opt out immediately so that the place could be slapped into shape. An inspector might suggest that Prescott delete every other word of his speeches, which would shorten them considerably without impairing our comprehension. Even the

spelling-and-grammar-obsessed Patten is becoming sloppy. Hailing fine schools in poor areas such as Toxteth, he boomed: "We should all be looking at those beacon schools of excellence, who I congratulate." Who?

You cannot help feeling that Patten would benefit from looking forwards a little, to new techniques, rather than backwards to fussy old ones. There is nothing more fashionable than rap-style teaching. American pupils now learn multiplication tables through rap verse, such as: "Seven times five is thirty-five, if you get that

right, you can jump and five." The government could do worse than borrow this idea. It could even teach by example, delivering information to pupils in the Commons with snappy rap verse. To set John Major on his way, we can offer a Rap Starter Pack.

Treasury Rap:
Pound's up, pound's down,
why should we care?
That's what Treasury hot
shots ask when they dare,
But don't hang the blame
on the Chancellor of the
Exchequer.

**'Cos he gets upset when he's
called "Economy Wrecker".**

Foreign Office Rap:
Our in-tray's piled high
with briefs about Serbs
And whether we should take
part in military curbs,
But we always act alone, so
please don't push.
At least until we've agreed to
do the same as Bush.

Education Ministry Rap:
The man at education, they
call him John Patten.
He gets so riled people say,
"John, keep your hat on."
He's always droning on
about hell and damnation,
They're what lie in store if
you fail his examination.

Trade and Industry Rap:
Michael "Mike" Heseltine,
boss of the Board of Trade,
Takes a decision and sticks
to it, he's not afraid.
Like when he closed all the
coal pits, he would not sway,
Until a national uproar
changed his mind the next
day.

Public Services Rap:
Young Willie Waldegrave is
dreaming up charters,
For passengers and patients
and parents just for starters.
All citizens will have the
right to claim money back,
Unless it's the government
they feel deserves the sack.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Libya edges towards
UK Lockerbie trial

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya has chosen a leading Egyptian lawyer to be chief defence counsel for the two Libyans accused of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing (Christopher Walker writes from Cairo). The decision could be a first step to handling the alleged bombers over for trial in Britain, according to the Cairo opposition daily newspaper *Al Wafd*. Any such move would reverse the Libyan position maintained since arrest warrants were issued in November last year. The Gaddafi regime has repeatedly refused a trial in Britain or America, saying that it would be biased against the accused, who face charges of murder and conspiracy.

Al Wafd reported that Ahmed al-Khawaga, 66, head of the Egyptian Lawyers Syndicate, had been asked to lead a defence team that would include four Britons. "Intensive contacts are currently being held with the British government to fix the date of the trial, expected to be held early next January," *Al Wafd* said. Egyptian sources said that the key to any change in Libya's stand was a statement to the Commons in November by John Major reassuring Tripoli that the two men would receive a fair trial in Scotland.

Raider gets 24 years

A jail-breaker was sentenced yesterday to a total of 24 years for his part in armed raids in which three security guards were shot. Mr Justice May said that he regarded Paul Bryant, 29, as the leader in the 1991 raids against cash and delivery vans in Cheltenham and Brockworth. He sentenced Mark Cunliffe, also 29, to a total of 17 years for his role in the raids.

The jury at Bristol Crown Court was told that a masked gunman shot and wounded two guards, Thomas Cottrell and Wilfred Lane, as they made a delivery at Lloyds Bank in Cheltenham. The judge said it was only by the grace of God and the skill of surgeons that neither man died, but they would suffer physically and psychologically for the rest of their lives. Bryant was also found guilty of an attempted robbery at Brockworth in 1991 and he admitted being an escaper from Canterbury Prison.

HIV law ruled out

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, yesterday ruled out creating a criminal offence of knowingly transmitting HIV. Lawyers said the decision means that action over deliberate transmission of the virus will be left to existing criminal laws or to the civil law of damages. Mr Clarke said in a Commons written reply that he was aware of concern about the issue, but had concluded: "There are difficulties both of principle and practice in bringing this type of behaviour within the scope of the criminal law and I am not persuaded that these difficulties have been overcome in other jurisdictions." The announcement follows a review set up in June.

Farmer pays for protest

A farmer who dumped four tonnes of manure on a council doorstep after a dispute over planning permission for a retirement bungalow was ordered to pay the £1,138.56 bill for cleaning up the mess. The target of David Cannon, 63, of Dalton, Northumberland, was Castle Morpeth council's planning department but his barnage with a muck-spreader hit the housing offices. Magistrates at Bedlington, Northumberland, were told how a stone shattered a window and farmyard slurry splattered inside. Workers dived for cover. Mr Cannon had admitted using threatening behaviour but denied criminal damage. Magistrates also imposed £40 costs but no further penalty.

Pensioner abused girl

A pensioner with a 30-year history of preying on young girls was yesterday described by a judge as "one of the country's most dangerous sex offenders". Ronald Davis, 67, was convicted of two indecent assaults on a girl aged eight and was remanded in custody for a pre-sentence report. Judge Graham Neville told Exeter Crown Court that Davis had 20 previous sex convictions including unlawful intercourse and kidnapping. He befriended his latest victim's family after moving near their home. He assaulted her on a beach but the girl, giving evidence by video link, said she was too scared to tell anyone. When he sexually abused her on a country walk five days later she told her mother.

Boxer wins libel case

The former boxing champion Terry Marsh has won libel damages in the High Court from the publisher of the men's magazine *For Him*. The court was told that an interview three years ago with Frank Warren, Mr Marsh's former manager, contained a "highly offensive" allegation. The publisher apologised and agreed to pay the legal costs of Mr Marsh, 34, of Wickford, Essex, who is a former holder of the world light welterweight title. On October 30, Mr Warren lost a libel action against Mr Marsh over a 1989 television interview in which Mr Marsh said that Mr Warren had allowed him to sign a fight contract while knowing that he was suffering from epilepsy.

Lamplugh case remand

A Frenchman charged with attempting to kidnap Elizabeth Lamplugh, sister of the missing estate agent Suzy, was remanded in custody by Oxford magistrates yesterday. Anthony Bourgnis, 20, of no fixed address, was charged with attempting to kidnap Miss Lamplugh in Oxford on Sunday and with threatening to kill her, robbing her of her car, and possessing two knives and a scalpel without lawful excuse. The offences are said to have happened outside her home in St Clements, Oxford.

Blatch
warns
teachersBY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS Blatch, the education minister, yesterday took a tough line with teachers and parents who are threatening to boycott next year's national curriculum tests for 14-year-olds.

The National Union of Teachers is canvassing opinion on a possible boycott of the English tests, and a national pressure group is meeting next month to plan a parents' campaign. A co-ordinated withdrawal of pupils from the tests will be considered. Lady Blatch warned teachers that they would be in breach of contract if they refused to administer tests for 14-year-olds and parents would be breaking the law if they withdrew their children from school.

"A boycott would be almost a confidence trick on young people," Lady Blatch said at a news conference in London. It would be "extraordinary" for teachers to deny pupils a trial run before GCSE examinations. "If they don't get that, it will be back to the bad old days of entry at five and the very first time pupils will be assessed in any external, formal way will be at 16."

In the House of Commons, Eric Forth, the junior education minister, rejected pleas to delay the tests for a year. He said that pilots had been carried out, and the main assessment in English, mathematics and science would go ahead next summer.

Diary, page 14

MPs urged to
recall impact
of opposition
to Nazism

Parallels are being drawn between the Nazi Holocaust of 50 years ago, which inspired an outraged parliamentary moral stand, and evidence of atrocities in Bosnia

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

THE outraged moral stand taken by Parliament 50 years ago against Hitler's extermination of the Jews should inspire MPs faced with the resurgence of Nazism across Europe and atrocities in Bosnia, the historian Martin Gilbert said last night.

The Allied declaration against Germany atrocities, which was issued simultaneously in London, Washington and Moscow on December 17, 1942, had an "unparalleled impact" on the Western conscience, Mr Gilbert, Churchill's official biographer, told a special meeting to mark the anniversary at the Houses of Parliament.

"It is possible for the House of Commons by its actions to draw attention to what is happening. Wherever it is that there is an abuse of human rights, if the House acts, then it makes a difference" he said. A group of MPs, led by Greville Janner, is to put down an early-day motion updating the declaration. It was read to MPs half a century ago by Anthony Eden, the foreign secretary, revealing that "the Germany authorities, not content with denying to persons of Jewish race in all territories

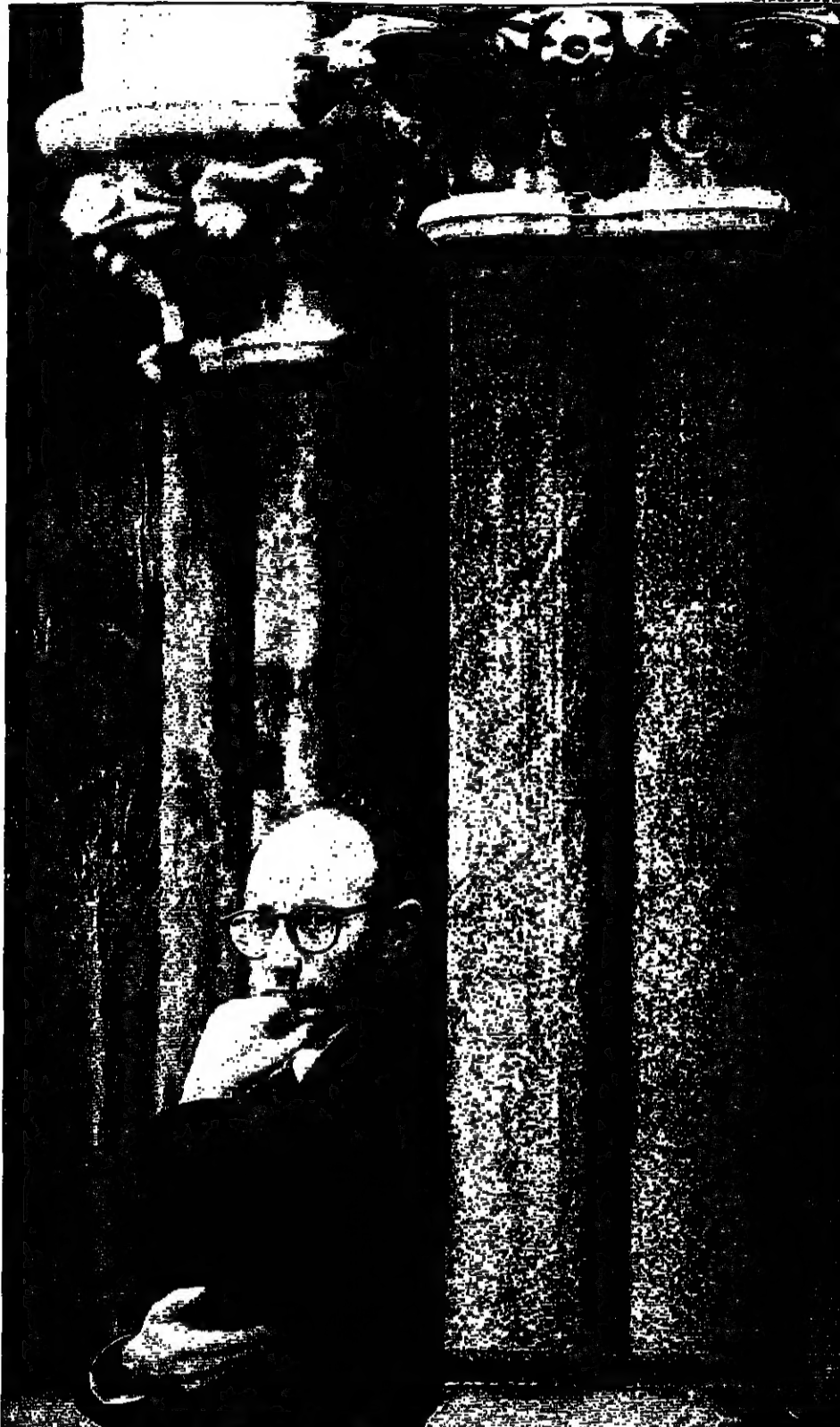
over which their barbarous rule has been extended the most elementary human rights are now carrying into effect Hitler's oft-repeated intentions to exterminate the Jewish people in Europe."

The House was so appalled by the confirmation of its worst fears that hundreds of thousands had died that it stood in silence for a minute, the first such gesture in parliamentary history.

The following day *The Times* saluted the "memorable scene", commenting: "With every circumstance of calculated and diabolic cruelty the engine of the totalitarian State is being used to grind out the life of that ancient, much-enduring race... It is a terrible thing to outrage the conscience of mankind; and a terrible reckoning awaits the guilty."

By December 1942 more than four million Jews had already been slaughtered at some of the death camps, such as Chelmno, Auschwitz, Treblinka and Belzec, destinations referred to in the British press as "the unknown places". Mr Gilbert said that the testimony of 69 Palestinian Jews released from Nazi captivity had revealed the extent of the horror but failed to convince all Allied powers. "The US wanted to modify the declaration so it would not give the total approval of the Western governments — merely 'it is reported that' — but the British government insisted."

Lord Merlyn-Rees, chair of the parliamentary war crimes group, said that contemporary events in Europe made the memory of the declaration all the more important. "There's a relevance today, there's no question about it. I recently heard a group of East Germans, brought up under communism, mouthing exactly the same things as the Nazis. It shows a circularity in politics," Lord Beloff, the historian and fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, said it was "important to mark such an occasion, especially with the world as it appears today".



Life in his hands: Dr Jim Howe outside the House of Lords during the hearing

Law lords may delay decision
on Hillsborough man's future

DR JIM Howe, who is caring for the Hillsborough victim Tony Bland, may have to wait until mid-January for a judgment from the House of Lords on whether it would be lawful to switch off his feeding machine (Kate Alderson writes).

Legal representatives from Airedale NHS trust said yesterday that they believed the five law lords would reserve judgment and give no indication of their decision until early or mid-January. Mr Bland has been in a persistent vegetative state for more than three years since suffering chest injuries at the football stadium disaster. Medical experts, including Dr Howe, say there is no prospect of recovery.

This delay will disappoint Dr Howe and Mr

Bland's parents, Allan and Barbara, who had hoped for a ruling before Christmas. Last month David Venables, the Official Solicitor, indicated that he hoped a decision would be made before the end of the year.

The High Court and Court of Appeal have already ruled that it would be lawful to withdraw nutrition and hydration from Mr Bland and at both hearings judges said they hoped the matter would be rapidly resolved to minimise the distress suffered by Mr Bland's parents.

Lord Mustill said yesterday during the hearing: "What is being said in this case is that he should be starved to death, based on an assessment of his quality of life."

Yeltsin says reforms
are still on course

Continued from page 1
supporter since mid-1991, said he considered Mr Chernomyrdin the symbol of a brake on reforms and said Democratic Russia would be unable to campaign further for the president.

But the new prime minister disputed his reputation as an opponent of radical change, saying: "I never gave anyone reason to proclaim that the course of reforms would alter under my leadership. I am for deepening the reforms. There is no way back."

Mr Chernomyrdin, formerly the energy minister, said that the thrust of policies pursued by the Yeltsin-Gaidar team would have to be changed to halt the slump in industrial production and that he supported subsidies on fuel prices, a policy which contradicts the recommendations of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. He

did, however, throw his support behind the government's privatisation programme.

Mr Chernomyrdin failed to dispel concerns that he intended to reverse the shock-therapy treatment intended to steer Russia towards a market economy. He was "in favour of the market, but not the bazaar", indicating a reluctance to take the risks of deep economic liberalisation.

Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, said the government needed new policies. "We might make a step backwards here and there in order to move forwards more confidently," he said. "But there can be no retreat from the main thrust of democratic and market reform." He told the West not to panic at Mr Gaidar's loss: "Don't look at the personality; look at policy."

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Leading article, page 15

Bishop questioned by police

Continued from page 1
person against the Bishop of Gloucester, Bishop Peter Ball. The bishop has given a statement to the police.

Canon Radford said: "It must be emphasised that no charges have been brought against the bishop and the allegations are unsubstantiated. Moreover, the bishop has a proven record of outstanding pastoral work, particularly amongst young people. The Archbishop of Canterbury has been informed and has been in touch with Bishop Peter."

The archbishop has instructed Bishop Peter to take a rest from his official duties and avoid the glare of publicity while these distressing allegations are investigated. The archbishop has Bishop Peter in his prayers at this difficult time.

He said the bishop was in hiding. "I have spoken to him and he is obviously feeling very tired."

The Right Rev Jeremy Walsh, Bishop of Tewkesbury

and Bishop Ball's assistant, said: "This is a very great shock. People in the diocese will be devastated that these allegations have been made. I am personally extremely sorry. They have of course been denied by Bishop Peter."

The church is seeking a senior figure to carry out its investigation, the results of which will be reported directly to the archbishop. The bishop's official duties are being taken over by Bishop Walsh.

In the 1960s, the Ball brothers founded the Monastic Community of the Glorious Ascension. The order had a creed based on celibacy, poverty and obedience.

Brother Kenneth, prior of the order, now based in Telford, Shropshire, said: "Members are called to be chaste and, in modern terms, must not sleep around. If they do not have a lifelong partner, they are not supposed to be sleeping with or having sexual relationships with anyone." A spokesman said that the nov-

ice was in no way connected with the order.

Bishop Ball quit the post of prior of the community in 1977 to become suffragan bishop of Lewes, East Sussex. "The two bishops are still part of the order, but have been released from certain requirements," Brother Kenneth said. "They still remain chaste and celibate, but are released from the vows of poverty."

When told of the allegations, he said: "I don't believe it. I can't say any more until I've spoken to Peter."

Bishop Ball professes an unlikely attachment to the joys of housework. "I simply love charging round with a duster. I'm quite fanatical about it. It's one of the only jobs I do where I can actually see a result."

As suffragan bishop of Lewes, he became a close friend of Ian Gow, the Conservative MP, murdered by the IRA in 1990. He went on to become a founder member of the Thatcher Foundation set up by Margaret Thatcher.

MPs fear
pensions
loopholeBY JONATHAN PRYNN
AND JILL SHERMAN

COMPANY pension funds will remain at risk from unscrupulous employers unless loopholes in pension fund regulation are closed, says an all-party committee of MPs.

In its submission to Professor Roy Goode's pension law review committee, which was set up after the Maxwell scandal, the Commons social security committee gives warning that a "drawing of lessons" from the Maxwell affair will not prevent similar abuses occurring. There is still "little or nothing" to stop an employer gaining access to pension fund assets and misusing them, the committee says.

The document will be followed next month by a report on the extent of the recovery of the Maxwell pensioners' assets.

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THE WINES OF
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Gilbey gin man wins £85,000 over wrong arrest

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

ANTHONY Gilbey, a member of the gin family, was awarded £85,000 damages and costs against the police yesterday for a three-year ordeal which began with his wrongful arrest for gross indecency in a public lavatory in June 1989.

Officers keeping routine watch observed him in surgical stockings and a corset in a cubicle in Beccles, Suffolk, the High Court was told, but he was wearing them because of thrombosis in his legs.

Mr Gilbey, 59, a great-grand-nephew of Sir Walter Gilbey, one of the founders of the gin empire, was accused of committing gross indecency with another man. He was acquitted at Ipswich Crown Court in 1990, on the direction of the trial judge, because of the unreliability of police evidence.

After successfully suing Suffolk police for assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution, he spoke of the "three and a half years of absolute hell" that he and his wife, Lady Penelope Gilbey, had endured after the arrest.

He said: "You hear about these things happening but it is grotesque when it happens to you. I was locked up and after they failed to browbeat a confession out of me they then tried to link me to a murder. Some people might have just confessed, but not me. I was prepared to fight them. It was

perfectly clear I had not behaved in the way alleged but unless you have a wife to stand by you as my dear wife did, it would be very difficult to go on."

Mr Gilbey, who was awarded £50,000 damages and £35,000 costs, added: "They even cross-questioned my wife at home while I was being held without telling her why. They frightened the life out of her."

Edward Garnier, his counsel, told Mr Justice Allott that Mr Gilbey was unaware when he went into the cubicle that police were watching the lavatories because instances of gross indecency had caused public disquiet in the town.

Police sent a message over their radio to say that Mr Gilbey was committing acts of gross indecency with another man, but he was doing no such thing, said Mr Garnier. Nor was he guilty of conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace, which was the reason the police gave for his arrest. During ten hours of questioning, police also wrongly accused him of being concerned in the murder of a woman whose body was found on land belonging to his wife's family.

Benjamin Browne, counsel for the Chief Constable of Suffolk, said it was conceded that Mr Gilbey should not have been arrested, detained, charged or committed to trial. He was not guilty of criminal misconduct and Suffolk police apologised unreservedly for the damage to his feelings, good name and reputation.



Gilbey, falsely accused of gross indecency

Tate plans gallery for its hidden modern art

By ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

AFTER years of indecision, the Tate Gallery in London is to establish a museum of modern art to display twentieth century masterpieces often hidden from view.

Only 15 per cent of the Tate's modern collection is on show at any one time. The Tate's trustees propose to turn the existing gallery building in Millbank, central London, into a museum of works by British artists such as Hogarth, Blake, Turner, Constable and Sickert, and to build a new gallery to display international modern art, in an attempt to rival the Pompidou Centre in Paris and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Yesterday's announcement represents what the gallery calls its biggest policy decision since the second world war. Expansion plans have been discussed for the past 18 months. While the logistics of the new building are being determined, the trustees will seek a temporary home for the modern works.

A donation of \$10 million (£6.5 million) from an anonymous American will be used to develop the northwest quadrant of the existing gallery as the first step in the creation of the Tate Gallery of British Art. Refurbishment will begin in 1994 and will take two years.

The new building, which may cost as much as £100 million, is partly reliant upon government money. The Tate trustees propose that it comes from the earnings of the national lottery and in particular from the Millennium Fund. The heritage department said that the scheme was dependent on the successful passage of the lottery bill, due to be presented to the Commons tomorrow. The department expects to be besieged with similar bids for money.

Dennis Stevenson, chairman of the trustees, said that the gallery could match government funds by raising money from private donors.



Fighting for space: Picasso's Weeping Woman, currently kept in store, would find room in the new gallery

"There is a considerable constituency of people who would expect London to have a major museum of modern art and we believe some of them are willing to support the project with money." The

trustees have been reviewing sites for the new museum, but have no definite area in mind. Plans to convert Battersea power station have been dropped because of the cost.

Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate, said that the number of visitors to the London gallery increased last year and accessibility was the primary consideration. "Consumer interest in the visual arts represent a growth area in our

national life." The Tate's two sites out of London, in Liverpool and St Ives, Cornwall, will not be affected by the development. Proposals to build a further gallery in Norwich have been dropped.

Province Europe's bugging blackspot

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE disclosure that police are investigating an apparent IRA operation to tap the home telephone of John Hume, leader of the SDLP, reinforces the belief that bugging and eavesdropping are more rife in Northern Ireland than any other country of the European Community.

In the latest episode, Mr Hume's telephone at his home in Bogside, Londonderry, was found to have been listened to from a house five doors away. Tapes found in the basement of the house are believed to include conversations between Mr Hume and John Major, the prime minister. Yesterday police confirmed that their investigation into the tapes was continuing but refused to comment further.

Virtually all the paramilitary groups in the province have involved themselves in surreptitious snooping, as have state agencies including Army intelligence, the police, M15 and M16.

The IRA has been tapping phones since the early 1970s and is known to have infiltrated BT. In 1974 one of its most successful taps was placed in a telephone junction box between Belfast and Lisburn, where the headquarters of Army intelligence in Northern Ireland is based. The Provisionals were able to listen in to hundreds of conversations.

The tapping of Mr Hume is not the first time the IRA has focused its attentions on the Social Democratic and Labour Party. It was strongly suspected of having bugged a meeting held at a hotel at Carrigart, county Donegal, in 1981. Details of confidential discussions were published at length soon after in *Republican News*, the Sinn Féin newspaper.

The state has at various times allegedly bugged the phones of politicians, including Mr Hume, paramilitaries and journalists.

All phone taps in Northern Ireland are supposed to be authorised by the secretary of state, but it has been alleged that many more have been deployed than officially authorised, especially during the 1970s.

007's file is sold for £14,300

IAN Fleming's notes outlining the tastes and quirks of James Bond and ideas for his adventures sold for £14,300 at Sotheby's yesterday.

The "James Bond file" was bought by the author's nephew and two nieces, Nicholas Fleming, Lucy Fleming and Kate Grimond. They said they were determined to keep the file in the family. The proceeds, which were considerably below the estimate, will go towards the London Library appeal.

Dating from July 1957 until the author's death in 1964, the 128-page loose-leaf notebook, offered for sale by the author's stepdaughter Fionn Morgan, consists of notes, either typewritten or jotted down, under headings such as people, crime and food. They were used by the author as a quarry for ideas.

At the same sale, Sir Nicholas Henderson, former British Ambassador to Washington and a close friend of Fleming, paid £418 for a dark blue suit and a pair of gold monogrammed slippers belonging to the author. Because Sir Nicholas was also the vendor of those items, his action amounted to a donation to the London Library, which is seeking £2 million to house 100,000 books.

Leading article, page 15

Christie's cuts 60 jobs in auction slump

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

CHRISTIE'S International is to make 60 employees redundant. It was announced yesterday, Christopher Davidge, the managing director, said costs were being cut "in a market where the level of sales remains relatively low".

The move comes a month after Sotheby's announced it was raising its buyers' premium by 5 per cent for items costing £30,000 and under. There was speculation in the trade last night that the redundancies were Christie's alternative to such an increase.

Under a restructuring plan, the 39 specialist departments at Christie's will be rationalised into five "key divisions". The redundancies will mainly be in administration, with 30 in the UK.

Two years ago Christie's, the world's second largest auction house, made 146 employees redundant, a tenth of the workforce. At that time Sotheby's shed 100 staff, followed by another 19 last February.

Despite hopes of a recovery, the closing season has seen mixed results, with James II's wedding suit, for example, going unsold at £210,000, and bids for Rubens's portrait of Madame de Vieux stopping at £950,000. Successes, however, included the rare Dutch 17th century courtyard scene by Pieter de Hooch which

fetched £4.4 million last week, and the £10 million raised from seven paintings by Cézanne.

Mr Davidge said: "It's been a tough year."

Those who will lose their jobs include computer staff, members of the personnel department and some front counter staff.

When asked about plans to follow Sotheby's with the 15 per cent buyers' premium, Mr Davidge said that discussions had been taking place with department heads, but the company has not yet made a decision.

He acknowledged that Christie's could benefit from disaffected vendors who defect from Sotheby's because of the added charge. The most obvious example of this group could be country house owners, for whom a 15 per cent commission on minor items such as pots and pans could be prohibitive.

Cuts in staff at Sotheby's and Christie's must be considered in the context of the art market boom, the biggest for a century, which took place throughout the 1980s. Auctioneers hugely expanded their staff throughout this period.

About two years ago, however, sales collapsed, and the auction houses have been forced to retrench.

Detectives horrified by torture

By PAUL WILKINSON

POLICE seeking the kidnappers and torturers of a teenage girl in Manchester have been shocked by the brutality of the crime. One said it was the worst incident they had seen since the days of the Moors murderers 30 years ago.

Susanne Capper, 16, was apparently seized by a gang and held captive for a week. She was beaten, stripped naked, injected with drugs and, eventually, last Monday, dumped unclothed on a grass verge, doused in petrol and set alight. She is now in a critical condition in the Withington Hospital, Manchester.

Det Chief Supt Ron Astles said: "You would have to go back to the days of Brady and Hindley for an incident comparing with its sheer horror."

Police last night received permission from Ashton-under-Lyme magistrates to hold four men and two women for questioning for a further 24 hours.

Detectives are waiting at the hospital to talk to Miss Capper, who is being treated for burns to 80 per cent of her body. They have spoken to Barry Sutcliffe, the doorman who found her by a road at Romiley, near Stockport. Before passing out the girl told him she had been kidnapped and injected with drugs.

Hoover cleans up with flights of fancy

By BILL FROST

DEMAND outstripped supply yesterday as customers besieged high street stores in search of the vacuum cleaner that would fly them to America and back for nothing.

Hoover, the home-appliance manufacturer, is wiping the floor with rivals after offering consumers who spend at least £100 two free return flights to either New York or Florida. However, the travel industry and consumer watchdogs say that some potential passengers risk frustration and disappointment.

Brushing aside such pessimism yesterday, a Hoover spokeswoman said: "This promotion, launched at the beginning of last month, has been very successful. We have seen, heard and discussed the reaction. We are confident it will work." Since the offer began, an estimated

100,000 Hoover products have been sold in shops and warehouses - far above the normal figure for this time of year. Yesterday, at Rumbelows shop in Streatham, south London, an assistant said: "We have had a big rush, everybody has. We cannot keep up with demand and are now selling display models. I can offer you an upright vacuum cleaner now, but you had better come quickly."

While Hoover and retailers celebrated, travel agents and the Consumers' Association claimed that the opportunity may not turn out to be golden for all those hoping to fly free to the United States.

Muir Anderson, a Glasgow travel agent, said: "There are bound to be problems with the availability of flights. Everybody will want to travel during the high season next summer. Hoover have obviously sold a lot of appliances. I understand the take-up for the offer is

much higher than on other promotions and this could lead to disappointments."

Free flights are being offered between next February and April 1994. Travellers will be asked to propose three dates. If flights are oversubscribed, they must provide three more. If second-choice dates are booked up, too, Hoover's travel agent will make a final offer. Should that prove unacceptable, the free flight is off.

Keith Richards, of the Consumers' Association, said: "You have to be extremely flexible. The potential traveller must be able to drop everything and go."

"There is a potential problem over accommodation, too. What happens if you book a hotel in advance, as one would in high season, only to find your flight date was not acceptable? You could lose a deposit and end up in unsuitable accommodation. Our advice is read the small print on this offer very carefully."

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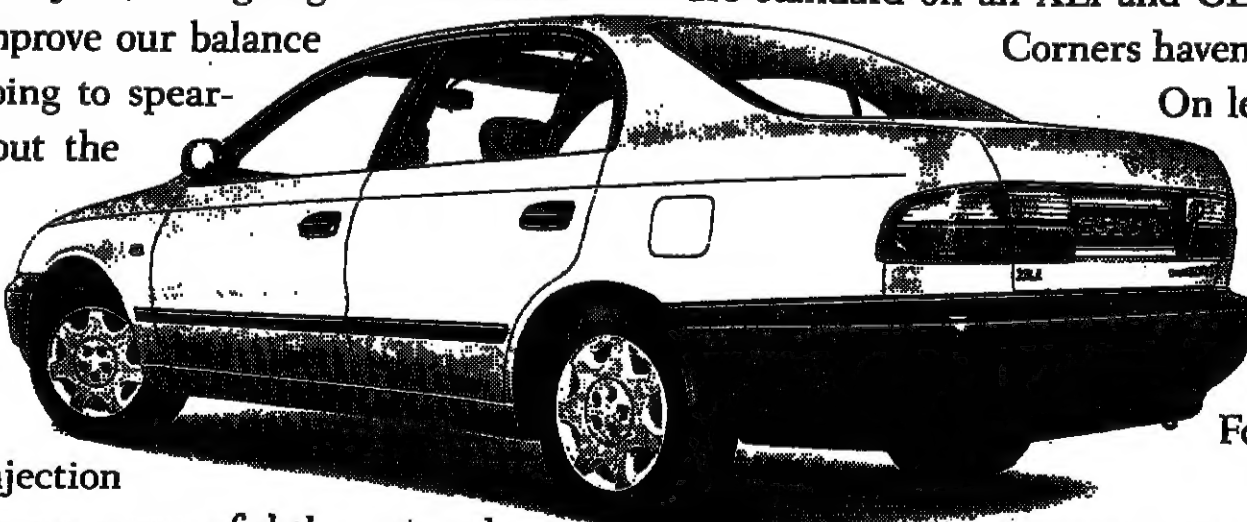
Power steering, an electric sunroof, an alarm and immobiliser, RDS stereo sound system and side impact beams are standard on all XLi and GLi models.

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Tomlinson decided NHS market was unnecessary

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

THE Tomlinson enquiry into London's hospitals had planned an extra section to its report that would have challenged the long-term need for the NHS market and the huge bureaucracy required to run it.

The Times has learnt that Sir Bernard Tomlinson and his three colleagues agreed not to include the section, which would have been an embarrassing rebuff to the government's health policy. The team had concluded that there would be no further need for the NHS market once hospitals in London — and, later, other cities — had been pruned in line with its proposals.

The enquiry committee, which reported to the health secretary, Virginia Bottomley, in October, planned to argue in the extra section that the streamlined hospital service that it proposed for London would require only limited checks to keep it operating at peak efficiency.

Sir Bernard decided against including the section in his final report because it went beyond his terms of reference, which specified that the committee was to work "within the framework of the NHS". However, he hinted that he

A paradox lies at the centre of the report recommending the closure of four London teaching hospitals, whose author is astonished at the lack of opposition

had more to say when he told a recent meeting of hospital public relations managers that the report contained only one or two remarks on the organisation of the NHS because "we did not think it sensible to go further than that".

The revelation will embarrass Mrs Bottomley, who is to decide on the implementation of the report in the new year. Sir Bernard, who has had a string of speaking engagements since publication of his report, is under contract to the health department until Christmas, when he will formally bow out of the debate. He is known to be astonished at the degree of acceptance of his report, which recommends closing four teaching hospitals and many smaller units with the loss of 2,500 beds.

Sir Bernard does not believe that his report, produced after a year-long enquiry by a four-strong team working part-time, has all the answers. "We are not all-knowing and all-wise," he said recently. "I am not sympathetic to anyone who buries their head in the sand, but I would say to the affected hospitals: 'Put forward constructive alternatives'."

Yet, with the exception of St Bartholomew's and, to a lesser extent, the Royal Marsden, none has done so. Silence greeted publication of the report, which had been expected to trigger a wave of protests. There has been criticism of the costing of the proposals, doubts over how much the sale of hospital sites will raise and fears over the effect on waiting lists. However, the central thesis — that London has too many expensive hospitals — has gone unchallenged.

Tomlinson is the twentieth report in the past 100 years to make the point. The difference this time is that the teaching hospitals face bankruptcy unless they comply. Many are already losing millions of pounds as health authorities outside London switch patients to cheaper local units. The NHS market is giving the argument bite.

Yet patients and family doctors fear losing the 2,500 beds that the report recommends for closure. Demand for beds in the capital is undiminished and GPs despair of getting patients admitted.

This is the paradox at the heart of the Tomlinson report: if London has too many hospitals, why is there no room in them? Guy's is a good example of a teaching hospital that enjoys an international reputation but provides little service to its local population. It has 850 beds, of which 100 are for

psychiatric patients, 150 for specialties such as heart surgery serving the whole country, 210 for general patients from other districts, and 90 for elderly patients waiting for places in nursing homes. Guy's provides only 300 beds for general services for local people, about half as many as the average district general hospital, and local GPs complain bitterly of the shortage of beds.

At least 2,000 London beds are occupied by patients from outside the capital, who are being withdrawn, which will ease the situation for local patients. Hospitals are also growing more efficient, freeing beds. Tomlinson predicted that the combined effect would be a surplus of up to 7,000 beds by the end of the decade.

If nothing is done, Sir Bernard said recently, all the teaching hospitals will be in major financial difficulty in two or three years' time, leading to longer waiting lists. Money spent propping up ailing hospitals would be wasted because it could be used to develop new services.

Simon Jenkins, page 14



Fashion accessory: the designer Vivienne Westwood, 51, displaying the OBE insignia she received from the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday

Provincial homeless 'losing out'

By Nicholas Watt

THOUSANDS of homeless people outside London are being turned away from hostels while the government concentrates its resources in the capital, it was claimed yesterday.

Adam Woolf of the charity Crisis at Christmas, which provides shelter for hundreds of people every year, said: "This Christmas we will be opening centres in five towns in the North West. The government has spent millions of pounds in London because the problem there is so graphic. But homelessness is a national problem and we have found that 7,500 people a month are being turned away from hostels outside London."

A spokeswoman for the environment department said last night: "Local authorities are responsible for helping the homeless and we work very closely with voluntary groups outside London. This year we gave them £6.1 million."

A report yesterday said that 54 per cent of the homeless who sought help last year from Centrepoint Soho, which provides emergency shelter in London, were 17 or younger.



Sir Bernard: "does not have all answers"

Overspent hospitals halt operations

By Lin Jenkins

SCORES of hospitals have run out of money four months before the end of the financial year, forcing some to close wards and restrict surgery.

Consultants at some hospitals that have already handled the number of cases paid for under block contracts have been told they can carry out only urgent and emergency surgery. Others have been given a limit on the number of operations they may do or had theatre time reduced by up to 75 per cent.

The British Medical Association (BMA) believes the problem is widespread and will survey all hospitals in the new year to find out how many have stopped or reduced "cold" or routine surgery. Consultants will also be asked whether they are favouring GP fundholders who still have money to spend.

The problem has arisen where the district health authority contracts a hospital to carry out a number of operations for non-fundholding GPs in a year and the quota has already been met.

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, has said there will be no extra money and that hospitals must meet the challenge of matching patient treatment to income during the year.

Dr Rob Buckland, consultant anaesthetist at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, where operating sessions have been halted, said the problem was widespread within Wessex regional health authority.

"We are now doing no cold surgery as such and will not until the new financial year in April. If we had more funding we could do more work," he

said. The hospital was not yet selecting patients from GP fundholders in preference to others.

"There is that pressure but it seems unfair to give an advantage to patients from practices that have funds," Dr Buckland said.

The three routine surgical wards at Central Middlesex Hospital in Harefield, west London, were shut this week for at least a month after almost all the work under the block contract was completed. The hospital's 1,500 staff will have been reduced by 100 by the end of the year through voluntary redundancies.

Andy Black, chief executive, said that the situation would be reviewed in a month but the wards could remain closed for longer. "We were contracted to do a certain number of routine operations and we have done them early. If we were a motorway there would be a big sign up saying 'completed early', but because we are a hospital it is seen as a bad thing."

A meeting of the BMA's central consultants' and specialists' committee was told recently that such cuts were widespread. John Chawner, chairman of the committee, said: "Surgeons face the dilemma because they cannot do enough work and consequently take patients from fundholders who are not justified on clinical grounds of having priority, but they are doing it to collect the money to allow the hospital to go on working."

A spokesman for the health department said "one or two places" had said that they had completed their non-urgent work.

Toyota's Derby plant starts production

By Tim Jones

AFTER the most intensive selection procedures, 1,100 workers will today continue the Japanese assault on the European market when they begin car production near Derby.

More than 20,000 people applied for the jobs with Toyota, in an area that has more than 15,000 unemployed. The successful applicants underwent up to 14 hours of examination, which included attending a local college for psychological and other tests.

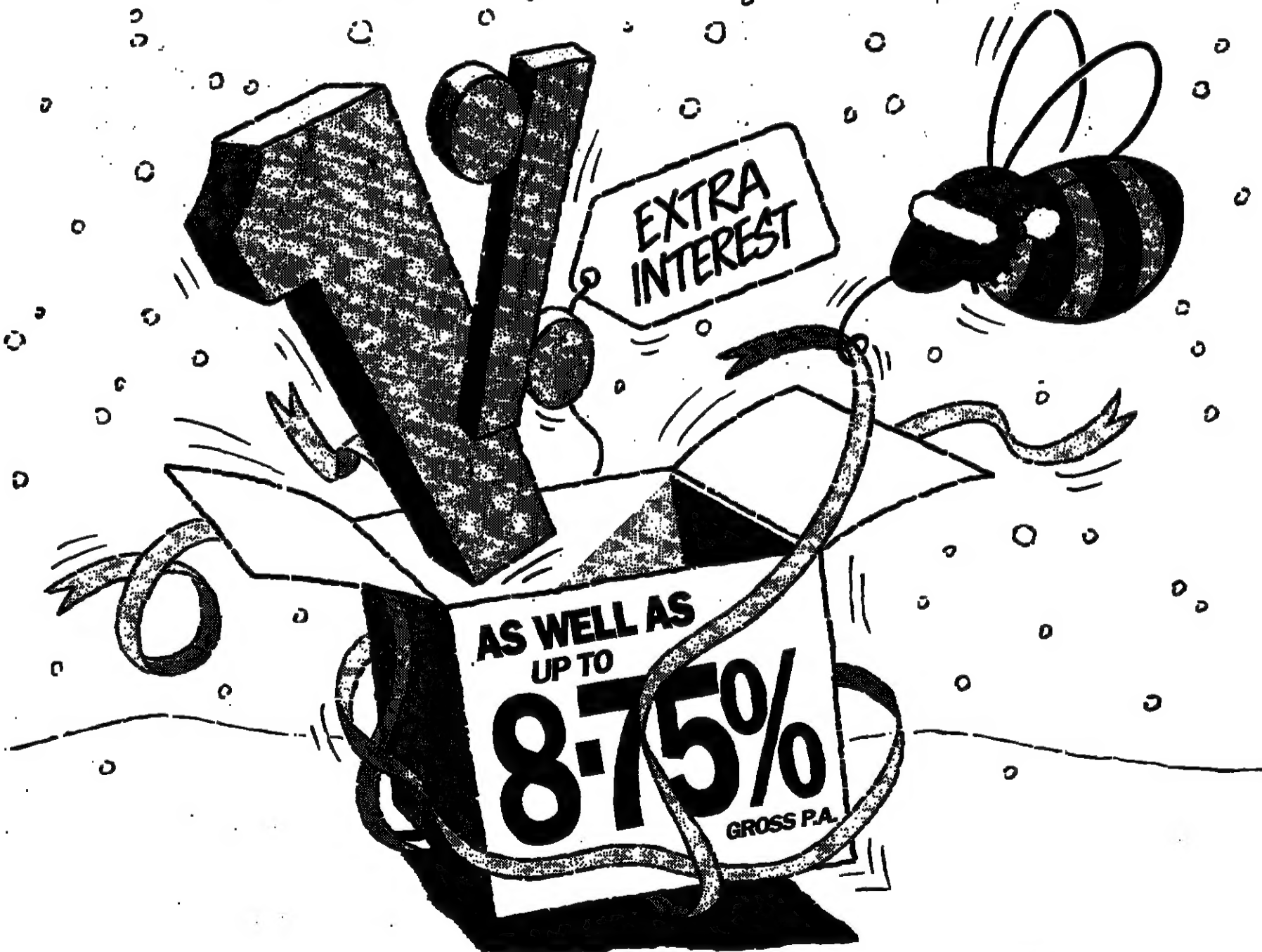
The Toyota factory at Burnaston, about seven miles

from Derby, expects to make 36,000 Corolla 5 saloons next year. Within five years, it is hoped to expand the workforce to 3,000, producing more than 200,000 models. Once production has reached 100,000, the company, Japan's biggest car maker, intends to spend £100 million in a year with parts suppliers in the area.

Today's grand opening ceremony, due to be performed by Dr Shochiro Toyota, the company chairman, has been shrouded in secrecy. It is likely that he will be assisted by one of the shop-floor workers.

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Enquiry underlines doubts over future of Sellafield plant

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government has launched an enquiry into the future of British Nuclear Fuels' new Thorp reprocessing plant at Sellafield in Cumbria. The decision will increase speculation that the £1.85 billion project might never be used.

The enquiry, which involves more than half a dozen government departments, reopens the official debate on the need for the plant, which BNFL regards as having been settled by the 1977 public enquiry that gave planning permission.

Growing concerns expressed by environmental groups about Thorp, particularly its proposed large-scale export of plutonium, the raw material for nuclear weapons, will be examined in detail by the Whitehall machine and ultimately debated by the cabinet.

More evidence of concern at the highest level was visible on Monday when David Poole, a

member of the Downing Street policy unit, toured the plant. Mr Poole joined an official tour by Tim Eggar, the energy minister, but, according to BNFL, had requested a separate visit.

Thorp, the thermal oxide reprocessing plant, is a high-technology factory regarded by the British nuclear industry as the jewel in its crown. It is waiting only for its pollution permit to start reprocessing 6,000 tonnes of spent atomic power station fuel, mainly from Germany and Japan. The plant will recover the unused uranium and plutonium in the fuel and return it to its customers abroad.

It has been opposed by Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, which yesterday featured protests from show-business figures, including the actors Kenneth Branagh, Jeremy Irons and Vanessa Redgrave, the singers Sting, Peter Gabriel and Annie Lennox, and the comedians

Lenny Henry and Dawn French.

The government enquiry will review both the potential problems posed by going ahead with Thorp and those that would follow cancellation. It is being chaired by Peter Owen, a deputy secretary in the Cabinet Office, and will result in a paper likely to be debated by ministers.

Besides hearing the case for Thorp from BNFL's sponsoring department in Whitehall, trade and industry, the review is taking evidence from the environment department and the agriculture ministry on the plant's proposed radioactive discharges to the Irish Sea, and from the Treasury on its economic viability. It will also take evidence from the Foreign Office about whether the plant's shipments abroad over the next ten years pose a threat of nuclear weapons proliferation, as critics say.

Letters, page 15



Back behind bars: the actor Anthony Hopkins, who played Hannibal Lecter in *Silence of the Lambs*, touring Downview prison, south London, where he opened a treatment centre for drug and alcohol addicts

Brainy car cleans up the air as it drives

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

A CAR that produces less pollution in city streets than it draws in from the air has been tested by government researchers.

The engine has an electronic brain which, it is claimed, makes up to two million calculations a second to improve the way petrol is burnt. In trials, a standard production car pumped out lower levels of hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen than it sucked in from the atmosphere.

Gordon Lucas, of Loughborough University's transport technology department, said yesterday: "It has been a bit of a joke in the industry that we will soon be producing cars with less pollution in the exhaust than in the air around them."

"We appear to be reaching that point."

A 2.3 litre Saab with a turbo-charged engine was tested in the City of London by researchers from the trade and industry department's laboratory at Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

During one 20-minute test, exhaust oxides of nitrogen, which cause smog, were 0.70 parts per million, whereas in the surrounding air they were 0.28 parts per million. In another test, emission levels were 0.70 parts per million, while in the air they were 1.14. Similar results were obtained for hydrocarbons, which also cause smog.

Levels of carbon monoxide were higher in the exhaust than in the air. But the government researchers claim that in highly congested driving, they may be lower. "In that sense, the car will clean the air," they said.

Saab credits the successes to an electronic brain which, the company says, is two to four times more powerful than the one used by rival companies. The 32-bit processor, linked to sensors, is said to adjust the running of the engine to unprecedented levels, for example adjusting engine timing after sensing the position of the driving pedal.

Keith Howard, technical editor of *Autocar & Motor*, said yesterday that the electronic brain was likely to be rivalled soon by other manufacturers. "The trend is to 32-bit processing," he said.

A spokesman for Vauxhall said it was "working toward a 32-bit engine management system". Other companies, including Ford and TVR, said that their vehicles would, under certain driving conditions, probably rival the Saab emissions.

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Motor crime by young 'soaring'

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CAR crime by young people has soared to record levels in parts of Britain, and the national figure has climbed to an estimated 3.5 million offences a year, according to a survey by the Labour party.

Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, who unveiled the survey yesterday, said it showed "the appalling and unacceptable levels of car crime. There are now parts of Britain where it has reached epidemic proportions with over 75 per cent being committed by young people under 21."

The government's recent car crime prevention campaign had made improved car security and public awareness its target, he said, rather than the central issue of youth crime.

More than 1.5 million car crimes were reported last year, according to the survey *Putting the Brakes on Car Crime*, a rise of 156 per cent since the Conservatives came to power in 1979. The five regions with the largest increases since 1989 were the South East, with a 76 per cent rise; East Midlands, 69 per cent; Yorkshire and Humberside, 67 per cent; East Anglia, 65 per cent; and the South West, 60 per cent.

The survey also showed that since 1989 five police forces had experienced increases of 90 per cent or more in the incidence of car crime.

Alun Michael, a shadow home affairs minister, said reported car crime had increased rapidly in the past three years after falling between 1987 and 1989. Thefts of cars had increased by 45 per cent and total vehicle crime by 47 per cent. Vehicle crime accounted for 28 per cent of crimes recorded by the police but the 1992 British Crime Survey suggested that only 32 per cent of thefts from cars

were recorded by police. The number of car crimes committed might be nearer 3.5 million, equivalent to one vehicle every nine seconds.

Mr Michael said figures for 1990 showed that 79 per cent of all offenders processed by the courts and courts for theft of vehicles were under 21, as were 78 per cent of those found guilty or cautioned for theft from cars.

He said the government should provide existing, legitimate opportunities for young people to channel their enthusiasm for cars.

THE WORST AREAS

Recorded car crime offences per 100,000 population for year to June 1992

1	Northumbria	4,360
2	Cleveland	4,271
3	Gr Manchester	4,001
4	Nottinghamshire	3,934
5	Bedfordshire	3,706
6	South Wales	3,582
7	West Yorkshire	3,557
8	West Midlands	3,225
9	London, Met & City	2,896
10	Avon & Somerset	2,869
11	Humberside	2,869
12	Merseyside	2,612
13	Leicestershire	2,367
14	South Yorkshire	2,471
15	Durham	2,454
16	Northamptonshire	2,386
17	Thames Valley	2,332
18	Warwickshire	2,177
19	Gloucestershire	2,125
20	Northolt	2,080
21	Lancashire	2,076
22	Kent	1,987
23	East	1,968
24	Staffordshire	1,967
25	Hampshire	1,890
26	Nottingham	1,799
27	Gwent	1,789
28	Derbyshire	1,718
29	Sussex	1,680
30	Cheshire	1,600
31	Hertfordshire	1,523
32	North Yorkshire	1,510
33	Devon & Cornwall	1,501
34	Cambridgeshire	1,479
35	Qumfria	1,453
36	Surrey	1,453
37	West Monia	1,433
38	Wiltshire	1,399
39	North Wales	1,239
40	Lincolnshire	1,261
41	Suffolk	1,255
42	Dyfed-Powys	1,173

Source: Labour Party

Mayle's Provence heads winter schedules

BBC launches £80m assault against ITV newcomers

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AN ADAPTATION of Peter Mayle's best-selling book *A Year in Provence* is the central plank of the BBC's £80 million assault on ITV this winter.

With ITV still boasting a 10 per cent lead in the ratings, BBC1 expects as many as 15 million to tune in to the dramatisation, which stars John Thaw as the disillusioned advertising executive who swaps the stresses of London life for a French farmhouse. But life will never be the same in the pastoral idyll of Menerbes, now certain to be further deluged by thousands of Britons.

BBC Television, hand-capped by going £60 million over budget in error, is hoping to capitalise on the teething pains of its new commercial rivals. Carlton, Meridian and GMTV take over on January 1 from Thames, TVS and TV-am.

John Birt, who becomes the BBC's director-general at Christmas, has said he does not expect "distinctive" BBC programmes to attract more than a third of the audience by the end of the decade, given the proliferation of cable and satellite channels. But next year, as the debate about the corporation's funding begins in earnest, he will want to lessen the ratings gap.

Yesterday Alan Yentob, controller of BBC2 who is acting head of BBC1 following the defection of Jonathan Powell to Carlton, said: "All the big names are on BBC Television this winter. There is ambition and innovation in the winter schedule."

The BBC hopes to exploit ITV's traditional weakness in comedy with Celia Lane's new situation comedy *Luv*. Nigel Planer as a French teacher in *Bonjour La Classe*, Jasper Carrott as a bungling police-

man in *The Detectives* and Lenny Henry as a "wide-boy cook" in *Chef!* But the independent companies will be fighting back with Meridian's *Full Stretch* and *Tracy Ullman: A Class Act* and Carlton's *Comedy Playhouse*.

Popular drama on BBC1 will include *Gallowglass*, a new thriller from Ruth Rendell, and *You Me and It* starring James Wilby and Suzanne Burden as a couple desperate to have their first child. On BBC2 Jonathan Pryce will star as an apocalyptic prophet in *Mr Woe's Virgins*.

A new season of *Screen Two* films features Derek Jarman's adaptation of *Edward II*, as well as Dirk Bogarde's *Voices in the Garden* with Jos Ackland and Jeanne Moreau, and Julie Walters in *Clothes in the Wardrobe*.

The plight of London zoo is examined in *The Ark*, one of many new documentaries on BBC2. Britain's first astronaut, Helen Sharman, makes her debut as a television presenter for a Schools Television production called *Seeing Through Science*. The arts programme *Arena* returns with a three-part profile of Graham Greene.

On BBC1, Clive James will explore *Fame in the Twentieth Century*, while Selina Scott returns to BBC screens with a media and showbusiness magazine called *Entertainment Express*. Clive Anderson, until now a Channel 4 stalwart apart from briefly standing in for Terry Wogan, will chair a comic panel game *Notes and Queries* on BBC2.

There will be new series of old favourites such as *Casualty*, *Low Hurdle*, *One Foot in the Grave*, *Grace and Favour*, *Antiques Roadshow*, *Wildlife on One* and *Mastermind*.



Seasonal fare: actress Fleur Bennett, top left, will be appearing in a second series of *Grace and Favour* and Selina Scott will host a new media and showbusiness magazine. Nigel Planer will feature in a comedy series

Auntie's man may not keep mum about programme plans



Powell: coy about plans for ITV

JONATHAN Powell, the embattled controller of BBC1 who fled to Carlton Television last week, will have at his fingertips all the corporation's programming plans for the all-important autumn 1993 schedule (Melinda Wittstock writes).

BBC programmes for next autumn have already been commissioned by Mr Powell, and Alan Yentob, his opposite number at BBC2, who is now in charge of both channels until Mr Powell's replacement is found. But Marcus Plantin, ITV's new director, is just

beginning to look at the network's autumn offerings. Many will not be commissioned until the new year.

Mr Powell, as Carlton's new head of drama, will be keenly aware of what it will take to spite BBC1's guns and keep ITV ahead in the ratings. He is coy about his plans, preferring not to say too much until he takes over at Carlton on January 1. But last week he said: "The perennial problem for ITV is how to generate long-running drama series that are not detective or crime-based. If I come up with

another show for Carlton as good as *Casualty* I will be happy, thank you."

Next autumn marks the first real test of the new ITV, following the demise at midnight of New Year's eve of Thames Television, whose programmes such as *The Bill*, *Minder* and *Mr Bean* will still dominate ITV schedules in the first eight months of next year.

Although this winter's schedule includes new comedies, dramas and light entertainment programmes from Carlton Television and Meridian, which replaces TVS, it

was set last summer, long before any of the damaging effects of overbidding in last year's blind-bid ITV auction could affect commissioning. Next year, as the advertising recession continues, ITV will be paying the Treasury about £400 million, almost £250 million more than companies are paying this year.

Speculation continues about the identity of Mr Powell's replacement at BBC1. David Elstein, director of programmes at Thames, and Steve Morrison, his opposite number at Granada, are

thought to be the main contenders, although Janet Street-Porter, head of BBC youth programmes, has a chance.

But the BBC1 vacancy has also led to further speculation in the corridors of Television Centre of a management shake-up that could create a new position for a BBC director of programmes overseeing and scheduling both BBC1 and BBC2. John Birt, who takes over as director-general at Christmas, is expected to move quickly this January, but nobody knows exactly what he has planned.

Refusal to hold inquest upheld

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN INQUEST ordered on a 17-year-old girl who died after an ambulance failed to arrive in time when she was suffering a severe asthma attack was blocked by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Three judges unanimously ruled that Douglas Chambers, the coroner of Poplar, east London, had been entitled in law to refuse an inquest, in spite of criticism over the delay in the ambulance reaching the dying girl. Mr Chambers decided in April 1989 that the death of Mavis Thomas, a life-long asthmatic, was due to "natural causes".

An ambulance took 33 minutes to reach Miss Thomas from the first abortive 999 call — received by an answerphone — but that had not turned it into an "unnatural" death requiring an inquest, the coroner said.

Earlier this year two High Court judges ruled that Mr Chambers had erred in law and that an

inquest was in the public interest. The judges ordered the inquest when they allowed a judicial review application by the girl's mother, Doris Thomas, of Hackney, east London. The High Court criticised the coroner for not considering whether it might be a case for a verdict of death aggravated by lack of care.

The appeal judges decided unanimously yesterday that the criticism of Mr Chambers's decision was unjustified and ruled that the concept of lack of care, in this instance, was not appropriate. Allowing the coroner's appeal, the judge said that he did not know why the delay had occurred but, in law, Mr Chambers had been entitled to conclude that the cause of the patient's death was the asthma attack.

Miss Thomas's family was refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords but is now considering whether to petition the law lords directly. Their solicitor, Jane Deighton, said the family wanted to find out how the "grotesque circumstances of her death came about".

LIKE everyone else, we were discussing the future of the monarchy. My friend Harry thought that it would be more in keeping with the times if, once every ten years, a brand new royal family were to be elected. That way, we would all get the royal family we deserved.

His candidates for the next royal family were the Lincolns — Gary the footballer, his wife and their baby. Gary has proved himself astoundingly virtuous, his wife is pretty and sympathetic and their baby's recent plight greatly moved the nation. Who could be more perfect?

But I argued, their very perfection would be their downfall. At the moment, the nation wants a royal family it

The way it isn't



can look down on. Headlines no longer bellow "PRINCESS MARGARET ENJOYS QUIET NIGHT IN" or "PRINCESS MICHAEL APPRECIATES LOVELY VIEW".

The nation expects a royal family to provide calamity and indiscretion. The present members of the royal family are unsuitable not because they are too awful

but because they are not awful enough. The prime function of the modern royal family is to satisfy the holier-than-thou instincts of its subjects. Thus the very niceness of the Lincolns would rule them out.

In the absence of Robert Maxwell, Michael Winner would make a most formidable candidate. The sight of Mr Winner and his chosen dolly bird waving from the palace balcony would unite the nation in loathing and we would all be happy once more.

And after a joyous decade of the House of Wimmer, I'm delighted to announce that Jeffrey Archer and family would still be quite young enough to take up the reins.

Psychological conference

What were you making up when Kennedy died?

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE who claim vivid memories of what they were doing when President Kennedy or John Lennon were assassinated may be fabricating their experiences to allow them to feel closer to history-making moments.

Such "flashbulb" memories may be more folklore than fact. Long-lived memories are likely to be rarer and more deeply buried than is believed, research presented yesterday to the British Psychological Society conference at City University, London, suggests.

While many people claim vivid memories from the time of Kennedy's or Lennon's murders, few have similar recall of more recent events, such as Margaret Thatcher's resignation or the Hillsborough disaster. Dan Wright, one of the researchers involved, said that the findings might have important implications for the courts and for the reliability of opinion surveys.

The research was conducted by the cognitive survey laboratory at the London School of Economics and was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. It questioned 2,136 people of different age, sex and social class during a June 1992 survey by the

Office of Population Census and Surveys.

Mrs Thatcher's resignation in November 1990 and the Hillsborough football stadium disaster in April 1989 were chosen because they "qualify on the importance and emotion criteria and have been used before in flashbulb memory research", the researchers said. Of those questioned, only 11 per cent, or just over 200, said they had flashbulb memories for the resignation and 9 per cent had them for the Hillsborough disaster.

The findings contrast with smaller studies, mainly with students, which found that 86 per cent vividly recalled Mrs Thatcher's departure and 90 per cent had detailed memories linked with Hillsborough.

Previous studies have suggested that the ability to make and retain flashbulb memories may vary with age. The new study finds no evidence of this. People from higher social classes reported having better memories of Mrs Thatcher's resignation than those from lower social classes.

When assessing the date of the Hillsborough disaster, men were more likely than women to give it as earlier than it was.

Dieting damages mental alertness

BY NIGEL HAWKES

DIETING can damage mental performance and should not be undertaken by people who must function at their peak, such as air traffic controllers, doctors and students facing exams.

Michael Green and Peter Rogers of the Institute of Food Research, at Reading, told the conference yesterday that reaction times, memory and rapid information processing all suffer in those who diet to lose weight. They attribute the reduced performance to the stressful effects of maintaining the diet and to the physiological consequences of energy restriction.

They tested 55 volunteers for mental agility, finding that those who were dieting performed significantly worse than those who were

not. Performance was worst in those who had been on the diet longest and who had lost the most weight. The effects appear to be related more to the degree of weight loss than to concern about eating and weight, indicating that the results were unlikely to be explained by temperamental differences between the two groups.

Children left with child-minders suffer fewer problems than has been thought, research at Thames Valley University has shown.

Dr Helen Barrett told the conference yesterday that she had observed the behaviour of 24 pairs of children under five over five years and had found little evidence of child-mind children becoming withdrawn and passive.

Chocolate addicts suffer secret guilt

BY NIGEL HAWKES

CHOCOLATE addiction may be the subject of Billy Bunter-style jokes but is a condition that deserves serious treatment, according to a survey carried out at Dundee University.

Many self-confessed "chocoholics" indulge their craving secretly, consume prodigious quantities of chocolate and suffer depression if deprived of it, Jenny MacDiarmid, a nutritionist, and Marion Hetherington, a psychologist, told the conference.

They studied 50 chocoholics, aged between 14 and 83, 46 of whom were women, and showed that they consumed an average of 12.5 60-gram chocolate bars a week, three times more than the average person.

Some eat 70 bars a week. More than half said that their cravings were greater when alone, depressed and under stress. Nearly 60 per cent said there was a link between their craving and their menstrual cycle, and 40 per cent admitted that chocolate eating was a vice practised alone and in secret. Of these 80 per cent felt guilty.

Two out of three admitted they felt irritable, angry and unhappy when they tried to cut down. The secret eaters were more likely to be dissatisfied with their bodies, have severe eating disorders and be more concerned about their addiction. However, they did not eat significantly more chocolate or crave chocolate more than the non-secret eaters.



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Editors attack plan for press watchdog

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR MP agreed yesterday to modify his proposed legislation for tighter controls on the press, to win wider support from MPs next month.

As a Commons committee concluded its hearings on the impact of the freedom and responsibility of the press bill, Clive Soley said he was prepared to accept changes to meet objections about the impact of a government-appointed independent press authority with statutory powers to force newspapers to correct factual mistakes. His bill comes up for second reading on January 29.

Mr Soley, the MP for Hamersmith, said he wanted to enshrine press freedom in the legislation and to ensure that ministers could not abuse the power to appoint members of the new body. "Parliament wants to do something and my concern is that we should be wary of going down the privacy road," he said.

Mr Soley believes that a majority of MPs favour stronger controls on the press. Both his pre-legislative committee and the Commons national

heritage committee have gathered evidence from "victims" of press intrusion as part of their enquiries.

However, newspaper editors and the Press Complaints Commission strongly objected to Mr Soley's legislation yesterday and urged MPs to allow the Press Complaints Commission's self-regulatory regime more time to prove its effectiveness.

Lord McGregor of Durris, the commission chairman, said he had no evidence that large numbers of people had not been helped by the commission in the past two years after suffering from inaccurate press reports. "There is scope for improvement in the commission, but development of the commission is the best method of reconciling conflicting interests of the press, public and Parliament without endangering freedom of expression."

He accepted that there had been excesses by newspapers and believed that the introduction of new offences to tighten up laws on the use of telephoto lenses and bugging, as recommended in Sir David Calcutt's

original report, would help. The commission was not the "con trick" assumed by Mr Soley. Its lay members did not touch their forelocks to newspaper proprietors.

Donald Trefford, editor of the *Observer*, told the Soley committee: "I object to the very idea that 21 people set up by the government can overrule the judgment of the individual editors." The proposed independent press authority would be a huge bureaucracy, wrapped up with lawyers, and a massive waste of time and money, he said.

Peter Preston, editor of *The Guardian*, also criticised the legislation as an "invitation for lawyers". Journalistic standards were sometimes out of phase, but he believed they were higher now than when he started in the profession 30 years ago. Malcolm Rutherford, a senior journalist from the *Financial Times*, warned MPs that the proposed authority's power to force papers to give aggrieved readers a right of reply would rebound seriously on his paper's financial and commercial coverage.



Michael Howard: piling on the Tory pressure for environmental issues

The greening of Michael Howard

Greenery has been the political issue that has never quite made it. But that could be changing. Not only are the opposition parties keen to make the environment a central political issue, but so is the government.

Previously, there have been flurries of excitement over local developments (the "rimby" factor) and, nationally, when the Green party enjoyed its boomlet in the Euro-elections of 1989. That July, the regular Mori poll put the environment top of the list of issues rated important by voters, before falling steadily back. Last month it rated eighth in significance.

Michael Howard is, at first sight, an unlikely devotee of green politics. He has made his name as a skilful advocate of controversial policies rather than as an innovator. But he now wants to make a mark on the environment, the one area in which he was not involved as a minister of state in the department in the late 1980s.

His view is based on a mix of political calculation and the pressure of events. Both Mr Howard and Chris Smith, Labour's shadow on environmental protection, believe that, as the economy recovers, voters will become interested again in environmental matters.

When he became environment secretary in April, Mr Howard was immediately involved in the preparations for the Rio Earth summit. Britain shifted into line with the rest of Europe in agreeing to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide to 1990 levels by the year 2000. Since then, during the British presidency of the EC, Mr Howard has pushed for agreement on tough regulations over movements of toxic waste and for greater consistency in inspection of environmental regulations.

At home, Mr Howard wants to see how far changes can be achieved through market mechanisms rather than by fixed regulations. Examples so far are the higher duty on leaded petrol and economic

incentives for the recycling of waste. The department has been examining a landfill levy and auctioning licences and transferable licences. This would increase costs for high-pollution activities. Research papers may be published in the new year.

An immediate priority is how Britain will comply with its obligations under the climate change convention. Options include a carbon/energy tax and other changes which would raise fuel prices, as well as tougher fuel efficiency requirements in cars. At present, these ideas are just for discussion, but the government has to take specific decisions on compliance by the end of 1993.

This approach is regarded as insufficient by Labour and the Liberal Democrats, who have held joint meetings with leading Greens. Mr Smith has said that the government is relying too much on exhortation and is not facing up to what is really required to cut emissions.

Mr Smith believes that the arrival of the Clinton administration in the US, and especially vice-president Gore, will raise the global profile of green issues. He expects America will, for example, sign the bio-diversity treaty and will seek to regain a leading role in international initiatives.

In party terms, the question is when members of the public link their worries over the environment and their membership of pressure groups to mainstream politics. Mr Howard is determined that the Tories, unlike the Republicans in America, should not be outflanked by their opponents and should be seen as the party with positive policies for the environment. No one will be able to ignore Green politics.

PETER RIDDELL

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Left-wing think tank to run welfare review

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith has asked the left's leading think tank to take over the running of his new commission on social justice in a move that will help it to come up with radical conclusions unhampered by Labour's existing policy commitments.

Mr Smith has told members of the commission, who will include at least one prominent Liberal Democrat, that nothing must be left off their agenda as they launch into the most far-reaching review of welfare benefits.

Scrapping child benefit and ending mortgage tax relief in

their present form will be considered.

The investigation will be conducted under the auspices of the Institute for Public Policy Research, the independent research body set up when Neil Kinnock was Labour leader in 1989. It is recruiting extra staff to service the commission and organising funding. Members will include Patricia Hewitt, deputy director of the institute. In a further indication of its independence it is not receiving finance from Labour.

The commission, to be chaired by Sir Gordon Borrie, who was director general of the Office of Fair Trading for 16 years, will be launched tomorrow by Mr Smith at a Westminster press conference. The enquiry will fit into a wider investigation by the institute, in the wake of Labour's fourth election defeat, into the future of the left and European social democracy. Its pre-election work tended to concentrate on specific policy areas.

The commission was the main policy initiative announced by Mr Smith in his leadership campaign. His decision to put the enquiry under the institute shows that he wants it to have a completely free remit to "think the unthinkable".

The Labour leader remains committed to the principle of redistributive taxation, even though he knows the Conservatives will always use taxation as their main electoral weapon against Labour. The commission will look at the possibility of ending child benefit as a universal payment and aiming it instead at the poor, scrapping national insurance contributions, and the need for tax allowances such as mortgage relief and private pensions.

The institute is organising a series of seminars, some of which will feed into the commission's work, as part of its work on the future of the left.



Sir Gordon: search for radical conclusions

£1 bn road spending criticised

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

PLANS to raise local road funding to record levels provoked accusations yesterday that the government was overlooking public transport needs and pollution issues.

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, announced that spending on local road projects would exceed £1 billion next year, "a substantial sum by any standards".

A £50 million investment in local safety schemes marked a 60 per cent increase in three years, financing thousands of safety projects which could prevent more than 4,000 injuries. Despite assurances that £15 million would be spent on measures to encourage use of buses, MPs complained that the dangers of pollution needed closer attention.

Robert Adley, Tory chairman of the Commons transport select committee, called for all new local road schemes to be accompanied by reports on air pollution. Jeremy Corbyn, Labour MP for Islington North, said: "There has to be a limit on the numbers of private motor cars in our cities. There is a limit to amount of pollution we can go on tolerating."

John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, said that the statement demonstrated Mr MacGregor's "ability to create an illusion" and did not "deal with the very real, growing transport crisis that many of our cities are facing".

Mr MacGregor said a 24 per cent increase in spending on bridge repairs was needed due to the age of many bridges and to prepare for new EC laws allowing larger lorries.

Hunters for food and fuel defy shells in Sarajevo

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN SARAJEVO

AS THE first heavy snowfalls of winter begin to descend on the Bosnian capital, the daily routine of survival for its 250,000 citizens has taken on a new and more menacing form. This once proud city, which played host to the winter Olympics in 1984, is being transformed into a latter day version of the horrific siege of Leningrad during the second world war.

The main Lion cemetery is now so full of freshly dug tombs of Muslim and Croatian victims that the gravediggers have been forced to appropriate the football pitch and stands across the road. This week readers were surprised to find that the city's daily newspaper, *Oslobodjenje*, ran nine pages of obituaries in an edition only 16 pages long.

Death and destruction from the Serbian guns ringing the city on the hills above have become almost routine in Sarajevo, where the preoccupation for every man, woman and child lies in the more mundane necessities of life, such as obtaining food and fuel for the harsh winter months.

I watched a father and son, carrying a large wooden door, negotiate their way across a patch of snow-covered wasteland, ignoring the threat of snipers. They carried their cargo with the care and pride of hunters bearing a trophy.

In any other city the display might be derided as eccentric. In Sarajevo, their supply of

limited fresh vegetables were similar, with two pounds of onions costing £15, potatoes £8 and eggs, when available, selling for £3 apiece.

Although international relief efforts are supposed to ensure that Sarajevans do not go hungry this winter, the closure of the airport to aid flights for the past two weeks means that the civilian population is being rationed to less than half of the minimum subsistence level. Aid workers fear that with such poor nourishment, it is only a matter of time before there is an outbreak of epidemics, particularly deadly influenza.

With almost no electricity, no petrol, and the almost complete collapse of the city's telephone system, the only people who have visibly thrived on the Bosnian capital's demise are the young soldiers and security men, whose black market connections ensure that they — and their overly made-up mistresses — always have a good table at the only restaurant in the only hotel still operating in the city.

Even the fledgling government in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which can barely function in its own capital, is planning secretly to move key administrative operations out of its ministries in Sarajevo to the relative peace of the central Bosnian cities of Tuzla and Zenica, where at least some of the infrastructure is still standing.

In spite of all these accumulated problems of winter and war, there is nevertheless a defiant spirit in Sarajevo, which may yet overcome the best attempts by the besiegers to bring the city to its knees.

"Of course life is difficult here, but we have a reputation to keep up as a city of culture and pride," said Joseph Pejajovic, Sarajevo's best-loved actor and musician, who still manages to host a weekly lunch party at the city's writers' club, where for half an hour the chatter and gossip of the assembled artists almost drowns out the sound of the constant gunfire.

Like others who could have fled but elected to stay in his home town, Mr Pejajovic is planning to throw a showy New Year's eve party, with a live jazz band for what he hopes will herald a better year ahead. His spirit appears to be infectious. Sarajevans, known throughout the former Yugoslavia for their self-deprecating humour, are still able to laugh at their predicament. "How does an intelligent Sarajevoan speak to a stupid one?" asked one official at the presidency offices, mocking her own stubborn decision to stay. "Answer: by telephone, from London."

Bryan Appleyard, page 14
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firewood for the icy nights ahead was bounty. Less daring citizens watched their progress enviously.

Men and women of all ages spend the daylight hours scavenging for firewood in the parks, and each day the city's more elegant avenues are scarred by fresh tree stumps, carefully grown oaks having fallen victim overnight to the needs of the city's stoves.

This desperate picture is most pronounced in the city's main open-air market, where the majority of the hungry throngs can only look longingly at foodstuffs they could never hope to buy. One man made a doomed attempt to barter a stack of old pornographic magazines for a quarter of an overripe pumpkin. Its owner resolutely refused to part with it for less than £3. Elsewhere, siege prices for the

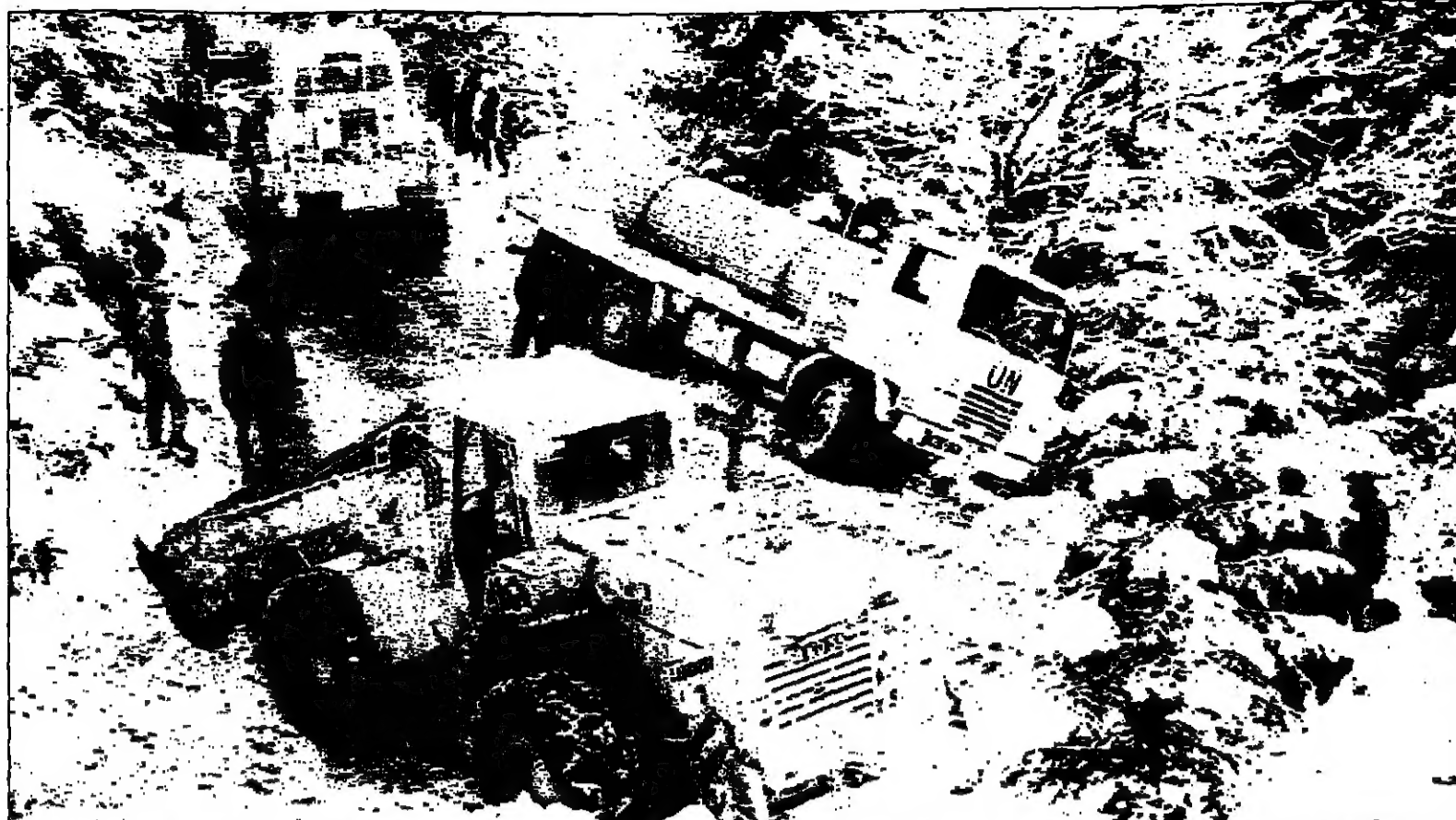
US forces the pace in drive to halt Serbs

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE new diplomatic campaign to secure allied support for tough measures to curb the Bosnian conflict is being driven from Washington. The Bush administration's diplomatic offensive was, sources said, prompted by France's decision to support an enforcement resolution and by the interventions last week of George Shultz, the former Secretary of State, and Bill Clinton, the president-elect.

Mr Clinton supported the enforcement resolution and said it was time to "turn up the heat" on the Serbs. This reportedly followed an intensive review of the Bosnian conflict by his foreign policy advisers. Mr Clinton argued during the presidential election campaign, for greater American intervention, and these views now seem to be influencing US policy, even before the formal handover at the White House.

In Stockholm, Lawrence Eagleburger, the Secretary of State, yesterday met Douglas



Snowbound: a British convoy to Sarajevo, photographed by Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, held up after a lorry slips off track

Hurd, the foreign secretary, and sought to enlist his backing for measures that included a new United Nations resolution to enforce militarily the no-fly zone over Bosnia. But Britain has doubts. Mr Hurd

said later: "I am laying back from that just for a moment."

In New York, American diplomats were pushing that resolution hard. But the administration wanted tougher wording than proposed in a

French draft. It wanted authorisation not only to shoot down Serbian aircraft violating the zone but to attack Serbian airfields too.

Mr Eagleburger is also advocating a partial lifting of the

UN arms embargo so that the Bosnians could better defend themselves. Britain has stronger reservations about that, and France is also dubious. The Stockholm Conference on Security and Co-operation in

Europe agreed only that the UN should "consider" lifting the embargo. At Washington's bidding, the conference yesterday approved the idea of war crimes trials for those responsible for Serb atrocities.

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Hero and villain run in Kosovo poll

FROM TIM JUDAH IN PRISTINA

THERE are two countries in one land in Kosovo. One is going to the polls on Sunday, the other has barely noticed that an election is being fought.

Serbia votes next week but for ethnic Albanians, more than 90 per cent of the population of the southern Serb province of Kosovo, it will be a day just like any other. So estranged are ethnic Albanians that they have hardly even noticed that the province's best-known candidate is a ruthless militia leader, a Serbian hero or war criminal, depending on your point of view.

For weeks advertisements on Serbian television have trumpeted the candidacy of Zeljko Raznjajovic, better known as Arkan. "He's a good and honest man, who won't sell us down the river," said Zoran, a market-stall holder.

Arkan's militia, known as the Tigers, fought in eastern Croatia and captured east Bosnian towns such as Zvornik in a blitzkrieg last spring. Fleeing Muslims hardly knew what had hit them. Arkan's name crops up frequently in lists of war crimes compiled by the US State Department and in reports by human

rights organisations. Ostensibly a pastry-shop owner in Belgrade, Arkan is rumoured to have been a long-time operative for the Yugoslav intelligence services, and to have strong Mafia contacts.

Such stories are dismissed by most Kosovo Serbs. "Arkan and Milosevic [the Serb president] are defenders of the Serbian people and they are fighting Fascism together," Mileva, a café proprietor, said.

Jelena, a teacher at Pristina University, said: "He looks such a lamb, but it worries me, because wherever he's been there's been trouble. I heard that he was involved in crime and wanted to enter parliament so that he could have parliamentary immunity. Who knows what to believe?"

Kosovo's ethnic Albanian leaders say that Arkan's candidacy is a "provocation", and according to Edin Tahiri, a member of the Kosovo Albanian parliament, "a mirror of the future of Serbian democracy". They are not participating in the poll because they have already voted to leave Serbia.

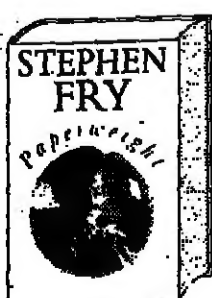
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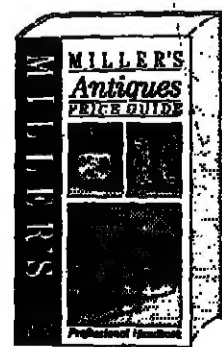


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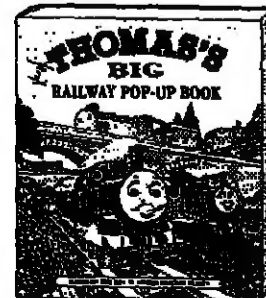
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Russia has changed gear but stays on the road to reform



Kozyrev showed West Russia is good partner

By ROGER BOYES
EAST EUROPE
CORRESPONDENT

ANDREI Kozyrev's prank, played out before a dour session of foreign ministers in Stockholm, has raised some fundamental questions about Russia: is the political pendulum swinging away from reform? And, if not, which way is it going?

Mr Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, read a speech that set out the foreign policy of a hardline Kremlin. Russia, he announced, would act to help Serbia against the West and would use military and economic measures to press the 14 new ex-Soviet nations into a Russian empire. "Has the Cold war ended?" asked a stunned

Italian delegate. Then Mr Kozyrev read a second speech that renounced the first and followed the relatively amiable lines of foreign policy under President Yeltsin. It was supposed to be an object lesson in what could happen if Mr Yeltsin fell. First reports about the new Russian prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the conservative economic planner, add to the general fear that Russia is on the brink of a great retreat.

Russian history is full of such reversals, posed variously as a battle between reform and reaction, democracy and discipline, or European modernisers versus traditional nationalists. Sometimes these contradictions are contained in one rule or one person. Peter the Great, the tsar who

opened Russia to the West, also murdered his son. Catherine the Great, who toyed with French liberalism, murdered her husband. The Bolsheviks, erstwhile champions of self-determination, spent bloody years in power restoring the

REFORM AND REACTION

structure of empire. It is not at all clear though that the current crisis is a struggle between reformers and reactionaries. Mr Yeltsin is being challenged on many fronts, and not just by former Communists who want to restore command economy or rebuild the empire. Many local authorities, for example, resent Mr Yeltsin's attempts to create a new

administrative centre, saying that he wants to reproduce the ruling techniques of the Communist politburo. Moreover, the new prime minister, despite his background, seems to speak not for reactionary apparatchiks but for those quite

reasonable democrats who argue for a coherent industrial policy. Russia took over some of the shock-therapy policies tried with qualified success in Poland, yet Poland has already moved on, realising that the monetarist remedies could not alone solve the problem of privatising huge chunks of state industry. There are, in short, many

roads to market reform and it may well be that Mr Chernomyrdin represents one of them. Even if the pendulum were to swing decisively away from the liberals, reform has already developed a degree of autonomy.

As many as 20 per cent of Russians, 30 million people, depend on income from private companies and there are already more than 200,000 co-operatives. No one can pretend that reform in Russia is racing forward, but it is moving and is all but irreversible. None the less, the old communist structures still exist and they may spell future trouble. Mikhail Gorbachev failed to define the role of the Communist party in a society that had been destroyed by

that party. Mr Yeltsin banned the Communist party but did not solve the problem. The central planning system may have lost its monopolies, pricing functions and political sense, but it exists in a thousand different networks. By the same token, the army is virtually out of political control but has not stopped thinking in political terms. The imperial mentality holds sway. A recent article in *Novoye Vremya* — close in spirit to Mr Kozyrev's foreign ministry — announced: "Our country can and must be a naval superpower." Russia did not need tanks, but rather new warships and refuelling bases.

Is this an early warning signal from those pushing the pendulum towards a nationalist empire-building great power? Perhaps, but there are also grounds for optimism. There has been no major social discontent despite the fact living standards have plunged and hyperinflation of 1,300 per cent has undermined savings and pensions. And Russia's move from imperial superpower to its present uncertain status has caused surprisingly few political ructions since the coup attempt of August 1991. Loud noises from parliament and grumblings or quibbles from the generals and admirals are a small price to pay for the shift to European partnership. The value of Mr Kozyrev's two speeches is that the West now realises how stable and dependable a partner Russia has become in a few short years.

Washington and IMF unnerved by Gaidar's fall

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON
AND WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

THE fall of the reformist Yegor Gaidar as Russia's acting prime minister and his replacement by a conservative technocrat, committed to slowing down the drive towards a free market economy, has shaken the Bush administration and unnerved senior officials at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

There were fears in Washington last night that the change may be the start of a backlash by hardliners in the

WEST'S VIEW

Russian Congress that will result in the undoing of President Yeltsin.

State Department officials will watch to see if other radical members of the Russian president's reform cabinet follow Mr Gaidar out of office. Their anxiety will mount if Andrei Kozyrev, the foreign minister, declines to serve under Viktor Chernomyrdin, the new prime minister. An international multi-billion-dollar aid package for the Soviet Union, agreed last summer but as yet unreleased, could be jeopardised if Russia's inflation rate rockets as a result of the new leader's

determination to prop up ailing state industries with large-scale credits.

Mr Gaidar was popular and trusted in Washington and his steadfastness in the face of opposition was admired. He scored a big hit last February when he defied his privatisation plans. The Bush administration, which had thought Mr Gaidar safe from Congress after Mr Yeltsin's weekend pledge to stand by his acting prime minister, has adopted a wait-and-see position.

"It's really incumbent on us to give this government a chance," said a State Department official. "The most important thing is that Yeltsin is still president. But reform forces are on the defensive." The official noted that, if the commitment to economic reform fades, Washington's strong relationship with Mr Yeltsin would be affected. The burning question is whether Russia's economic transformation has developed sufficient momentum for it not to depend on personalities.

A lot more than just a reform-minded government has gone with Mr Gaidar, his entire philosophy of reform, the economics of shock therapy, has gone, too. The trouble with shock therapy is that it has been more popular in the West and within the IMF than within the countries where it is being applied, at least after an initial period of enthusiasm. The Russian Congress, and before it the electorates of Lithuania and Poland, have endorsed shock therapy only up to a point. The subsequent U-turn does not constitute a rejection of the reforms as much as the speed and the methods with which they are pursued.

Put simply, it takes one day to free prices but many years to restructure an industry. In between there is chaos, and this is precisely where Russia stands at present. Opponents to radicalism believe that industry and the economic structures should be reformed simultaneously.

There is little indication, however, that a new government will be able to walk the tightrope between inflation and falling output any more successfully than the old one.

Yeltsin confident, page 1
Breaking Boris, page 14
Leading article, page 15



Double act: President Yeltsin, right, and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian prime minister, before meeting the German chancellor at the Kremlin yesterday

Chernomyrdin brings skills of a manager to the market

By PATRICK HEREN

VIKTOR Chernomyrdin, who was elected prime minister of Russia yesterday, is far from being an untested Brezhnevite. As the head of Russia's vast national gas industry, he has shown a marked aptitude for managing economic and technical reform, while avoiding the pitfalls of a headlong rush to a market system.

He came to prominence as gas minister under Mikhail Gorbachev, to whom he bears a striking resemblance. In 1989, the gas ministry was transformed into Gazprom, technically a state concern. At first the transformation, which was largely Mr Chernomyrdin's idea, aroused hostility and mirth in Russia and puzzled foreign observers.

Mr Chernomyrdin's title had changed from minister to chairman, but it was said that nothing had changed. In fact, a great deal had changed. Mr Chernomyrdin was convinced that Russia's huge gas exports to West Europe were underpriced; in 1990 he outmanoeuvred the buyers' cartel by forming a gas marketing venture with the German oil company

Wintershall. The European gas industry will never again take Russia for granted.

Gazprom began refurbishing the huge, ramshackle infrastructure of the gas industry. Mr Chernomyrdin has opened parts of the gas business to Western firms with something to offer. British Gas, Gaz de France and the German Ruhrgas are helping to update Russia's distribution networks.

But in a period when Russia's other strategic industries were sliding into

MAN IN THE NEWS

chaos, Mr Chernomyrdin's two greatest achievements were to keep the gas flowing and stop the gas industry from breaking up into warring groups. In contrast, oil production was collapsing, and with it vital export revenues.

Mr Chernomyrdin's elevation to deputy prime minister in May of this year was the first recognition of his achievement by the Yeltsin government. Whether he suc-

ceeds as well in managing the pace of reform in the wider sphere may be open to doubt. He is determined to give Russian industry the investment it needs while protecting the long-suffering Russian people from the full consequences of a shift to market economies.

But there is no question about Mr Chernomyrdin's abilities: one German captain of industry described him recently as the most impressive manager and negotiator he had ever met. During a long interview in 1991, Mr Chernomyrdin struck me as a highly intelligent, forceful and humorous man, with a thorough grasp of the imperatives of the market and the requirements of his own industry — not always coincident.

Above all, Mr Chernomyrdin is a Russian patriot: he will place the preservation of his country before slavish adherence to the economic prescriptions with which the Yeltsin government is

bombarded. The author is London correspondent of *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly*

Germans hope for continuity

Yeltsin tackles debt burden

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

HELMUT Kohl stepped out of his plane into the snow at Moscow airport on Monday night and met a short, thick-set, balding Russian official whom he had never heard of before. Neither had most of the German officials accompanying their chancellor. For a few minutes there was heated debate as to who Viktor Chernomyrdin was.

The news of President Yeltsin's appointment of the energy minister to replace the reformist, Yegor Gaidar, as prime minister spread gloom among the German delegation, already worried by previous signs of Russian backtracking on reform. The Bonn government has continued to emphasise strong support for Mr Yeltsin, but the conservative press in Germany was very critical of him even before the latest forced compromises.

Some hope has been taken from Mr Chernomyrdin's successful record as chief of gas production, which has held steady in recent years, in sharp contrast to oil. "After all, energy and raw materials are the only things Russia has to sell that Germany and the West are really interested in," a German observer said.

Germany is by far Russia's largest creditor and is now owed \$22 billion (£14 billion) in state debts by the former Soviet republics, all of which have been taken on by Russia. After meetings with Russian ministers yesterday, Jürgen Möllemann, the German economy minister, said that the Paris Club of creditor nations will meet tomorrow to discuss rescheduling the debt. In January, there will be a new decision on credit guarantees to the Commonwealth of Independent States. The

Kohl's view

Paris Club previously asked Russia to pay back \$5 billion next year, but appears to have moved towards Moscow's offer of \$2.5 billion.

President Yeltsin said yesterday, before flying with Herr Kohl to his residence at Zavidovo, that Russia's debts were a key subject of their talks. He said that they had also discussed conversions of military industry and the creation of joint ventures, "especially in Siberia and the Far East". Russia is expected to get an extra DM500 million (£203

million) in return for pulling its troops out of Germany six months earlier than the present deadline of December 31, 1994. Russia is also reported to be getting DM1 billion in extra reparations for Nazi war crimes.

Russia has been demanding DM12 billion in compensation for military installations in eastern Germany. German officials have pointed out that the bases are worse than worthless, since Bonn will have to spend large sums cleaning up environmental damage and unexploded munitions, for which Russia should really compensate Germany. Part of the deal being worked out in Moscow involves both sides dropping any compensation demand.

President Yeltsin said yesterday that he plans to establish a foundation to support the ethnic Germans whom Stalin deported from Russia to Central Asia. It is very doubtful, however, that this will stem their exodus to Germany. The idea of re-creating a German autonomous republic on the Volga is said to be dead, killed by local Russian resistance and indifference from the ethnic Germans themselves.

EC rushes to clinch trade agreements

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN'S presidency of the European Community has moved into overdrive in a desperate attempt to paper over some yawning gaps in the 1993 single market.

The EC's agriculture, finance, environment and telecommunications ministers already have flown into Brussels for last-minute talks. The roll call goes on tomorrow, when internal market and trade ministers will arrive, and continues next week as transport ministers try to sort out their differences.

Not all the talks are proving successful. Some of the topics may seem banal, but to the 380 million citizens of the EC they are the test of whether the Community has delivered its promise of putting the consumer first from January 1.

Road haulage is the most glaring hole, with Germany refusing to allow foreign hauliers to pick up business on its

territory until its partners agree to share some of the costs for its autobahns. Earlier this year the European Court of Justice stopped Bonn from enforcing a new road-use tax of about £2,600 a year on all lorries using its motorways. Now Germany says that until a higher minimum rate of vehicle excise duty is agreed between the EC states, it will not allow a single market in transport on its territory. German hauliers pay about £2,600 in duty each year, while competitors in southern Europe pay as little as £300.

Agriculture ministers yesterday returned to discussing the sale of bananas in the EC from January 1. The problems are threefold. Former colonial powers, such as France and Britain, feel they have a moral duty to protect the EC markets of their former African, Caribbean and Pacific colonies, many of whose economies are

dependent on banana exports. But protectionist tariffs on non-colonial bananas conflict with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and countries without colonial ties, such as Germany — the EC's biggest consumer of bananas — want more cheap imports from Latin America. Thirdly, the EC's own banana producers — Italy, Greece, Spain and France's maritime possessions — want their access to the EC market maintained.

Ministers were close to a deal based on a 2.4 million tonne quota from Latin America, taxed at 10 per cent, with any non-colonial imports above this taxed at 40 per cent, with this higher level of duty to be abolished after six years.

The same ministers clashed on Monday over potatoes. The European Commission wants a common marketing regime to begin on January 1, backed by £1.3 million of EC money

to help French, Irish and southern European potato farmers survive.

Yesterday Christiane Scrivener, the customs commissioner, said that lorries will be able to drive through the EC's internal borders unhindered from January 1. Many company chairmen doubt it.



Scrivener: EC borders will be open to drivers

Dilemma for Delors as Dutch minister joins Brussels ranks

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE unexpected announcement yesterday that the long-serving Dutch foreign minister, Hans van den Broek, was to join the ranks of Jacques Delors's European commissioners next month adds spice to the quadrennial game of musical chairs at the top of the EC.

If the Maastricht treaty on political and economic union is ratified, the next Commission will last for only two years and the list of names which the Community's governments are sending M Delors will begin to look a little lacklustre. M Delors himself was made president of the 17-person body which frames and enforces EC policy for the third time last summer, but has been waiting all autumn for a full set of nominations from national capitals.

M Delors can try tempting the politicians or bureaucrats he fancies having in Brussels by hinting that they will be offered one of the high-profile portfolios, but governments make the final choices.

But M Delors enjoys one day of undisputed power: he alone decides who does what. Mr van den Broek will instantly become one of the big beasts of the Commission, since he will be one of the handful capable of telling M Delors where to get off.

He did that when, as chairman of the EC foreign ministers' council in the summer of 1991, he refused M Delors permission to switch EC sanctions policy during the Moscow coup against Mikhail Gorbachev. M Delors did not take the rebuff gracefully. Mr van den Broek is likely

to have been promised some part of the foreign affairs portfolio now being abandoned by his departing compatriot, Frans Andriessen. With a huge aid programme for Eastern Europe and the ex-Soviet Union, and negotiations to come with countries wanting to join the EC, the job is now too vast for one man. Sir Leon Brittan, the successful competition commissioner, wants a slice of the action.

This leaves M Delors with a tricky dilemma. He would like Sir Leon out of the powerful competition directorate, as he has been too successful at bashing Parisian corporatism and subsidies for M Delors's liking. But no president would want two powerful commissioners quarrelling over disputed demarcation lines between their jobs.

Craxi named in bribes investigation

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS
IN MILAN

MAGISTRATES yesterday informed Bettino Craxi, the Socialist party leader, that he is under investigation in connection with the biggest post-war corruption scandal in Italy and the alleged payment by businessmen of bribes worth 30 billion lire (£14 million) to his party with his knowledge.

Politicians from across the spectrum called for Signor Craxi to resign as party secretary after he was told he is being investigated for possible charges of aiding and abetting corruption, receiving stolen goods and violating laws on financing political parties.

Signor Craxi, a former prime minister, yesterday denied personal involvement in the scandal.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16 1992

US and French troops cheered by Somalis on route to famine city

FROM PAUL HOLMES IN BALI DOGLE, SOMALIA

CROWDS of Somalis turned out to cheer a convoy of US and French troops pushing towards the famine capital of Baidoa from Mogadishu yesterday.

Young children gave thumbs-up and V signs as the 70 vehicles wound through impoverished villages in the first ground thrust into Somalia's worst hunger zone by Operation Restore Hope. The convoy of 530 American Marines and 142 French legionnaires met no resistance from Somali gunmen who, by disrupting relief work, indirectly led the United Nations to dispatch a multinational force. The troops, accompanied by scores of reporters and cameramen, sighted a lone "technical" — Somali battlewagon — just before they arrived at Bali Dogle, once a Soviet air base. American troops say they will not tolerate any interference, but Washington will not allow them to disarm gunmen systematically. French "pa-

ras", veterans of African crises from Zaire to Burundi, say they were under orders to secure Baidoa airfield by dawn today.

In Mogadishu, Colonel Jean-Paul Perruque, the French spokesman, said as many as 2,000 of the 2,200-strong French contingent would be deployed in Baidoa. Others would move further west to the town of Hoddur. "French forces are happy to be going to Baidoa," he said.

Aid workers in Baidoa, where up to 70 people are dying every day, have been barricaded in heavily fortified compounds waiting for the troops to arrive. Helicopters hovered low over the US convoy as it moved through the shattered streets of the capital. As it neared the US embassy on the main southern exit from Mogadishu, guns held by Somalis at one checkpoint quickly vanished, only to reappear after the last vehicle went by.

When the famine in Somalia first made international headlines in August, some 400 people a day were dying in Baidoa, capital of the famine-stricken Bay region. The wretched town has been looted several times as ragtag rival militias swapped control. Aid workers in Baidoa have criticised the US-led force for not coming sooner. Somali "technical" have been skulking around the town, looking for a chance for one more looting spree before troops restore a semblance of law and order. Several people have been killed in clan battles over the last week, but aid workers said the town was calm yesterday.

The White House spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, told reporters on Monday the US administration would not risk its troops by systematically seizing weapons which are part of the landscape in the shattered Horn of Africa nation. "Our mission has always been [that] we would collect arms as they became available and as we encountered them. But disarmament was not a stated part of our mission and that has not changed," he said.

Relief workers pressed a senior American officer to explain Washington's stand on the issue in Mogadishu. "Is the United Task Force to be the gendarme of all of Somalia? The answer is 'No'," replied Colonel Kevin Kennedy, American embassy liaison officer to the humanitarian agencies. (Reuters)

London: Critics in Somalia of the US relief effort are claiming there is a difference in approach to the mission between the American and French troops, with Paris adopting a tougher stand on disarming the roving militia. (Michael Evans writes.)

The perception is that the Americans, who have been ordered to stick strictly to a humanitarian role, are sweeping through Somalia as super-power benefactors, only taking weapons from gunmen who cross their path.

The French, on the other hand, with far more experience of Africa than the Americans, see themselves as colonial peace enforcers, wielding authority to impose law and order. They view disarmament as a vital component of their UN mandate.

The French attitude towards Somalia is bound to be affected by their long association with Africa. Most of the older French legionnaires involved in the humanitarian operation will have served up to 10 years on the African continent during their careers and are fully conversant with the culture.

American troops will approach this mission from a different viewpoint. They have no particular knowledge or empathy with the local culture, but they will be fired by the order from their commander-in-chief, President Bush, to save the lives of starving women and children.

Trials at Baidoa, page 1



Frisson of unease in French ranks

FROM ALEXANDRA FREAN IN PARIS

With their berets pulled down stylishly over one eye and their guns pointing casually to the ground, the men of the French Foreign Legion cut a dashing figure on the streets of the Somali capital when they arrived last week as part of the UN armed relief operation.

One ugly scene lasting only minutes but witnessed by millions of television viewers throughout the world on Monday night has shattered that debonair image. The sight of several armed French soldiers standing by while a young Somali woman, accused of consorting with French troops, was attacked by an angry mob has seriously wounded the Legion's pride.

Until then France, which undoubtedly sees itself as a the world's champion of human rights, had accepted its role in the humanitarian aid mission with relative humility. Media coverage in France had been widespread, but low key, quite unlike the fanfare in America.

If the attack on the woman was the first real sign of anti-foreigner sentiment in Somalia since the start of Operation Restore Hope a week ago, it was yet one more illustration of the growing tension between the American and French troops, who between them form the majority of the multinational task force.

Several hours before the attack, French legionnaires had been ordered by the US command to return a machinegun confiscated from a Somali, who the Americans said was acting as a bodyguard to Red Cross workers.

For the French mass circulation daily newspaper, *France-Soir*, commented: "In the Iraqi desert, the French Foreign Legion walked hand in hand with American soldiers. This is no longer the case in Somalia," it said yesterday.

While the American and French presidents continue to issue contradictory statements about the nature of

the operation — François Mitterrand insists that the troops should be able to disarm any Somali who threatens the relief operation while George Bush repeatedly denies that this is part of their task — the confusion on the ground is understandable.

Despite the fact that the French legionnaires are operating firmly under US command according to internationally-agreed guidelines, there is a tacit understanding, in France at least, that they are better suited to the harsh and arid conditions the task force faces in Somalia.

The legionnaires are indeed among the toughest professional soldiers in the world, in spite of their romantic image. Stationed in the tiny city state of Djibouti, in the horn of Africa, the 2,000 legionnaires, taking part in the operation have undergone one of the most rigorous desert training programmes of any army. They are given six litres of water a day, compared to the 30 litres that US servicemen were given in Saudi Arabia in the run-up to the Gulf war.

The Legion maintains the romantic tradition of allowing recruits to assume a new identity for their five-year contracts, but only one in five now takes up this option. These days the vast majority are young men from Eastern Europe, most of whom join for largely economic reasons.

One thing in the Legion however will never change. As shown by a bulging bicep — *Legion patria nostra* (the Legion is our country) — their first allegiance is not to the state but to the Legion itself. It is because of this that many in France believe the legionnaires have a distinct moral advantage over the US Marines, given the fact that Operation Restore Hope is an essentially humanitarian initiative. Who better to intervene as a third party in the Somali civil war than an entirely independent army?

Rabin says 1,200 radicals seized

FROM BEN LYNNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

THE latest round in Israel's increasingly bloody battle with the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement reached a new peak yesterday when Sergeant Major Nissim Toledano, the kidnapped policeman, was found dead in the West Bank and Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, announced to parliament that 1,200 Hamas activists had been put behind bars.

"Terror has no chance against us," Mr Rabin told parliament. "No one will remove us from here. Not Hamas, not the Popular Front, and not Fatah," he said, referring to the radical and mainstream factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. It was not clear whether the episode would boost the efforts of Hamas to undermine Arab-Israeli peace talks and eclipse the rival PLO, or discredit it and set back its challenge.

For the government, the abduction prompted renewed criticism from hardliners opposed to the more moderate negotiating line Mr Rabin has pursued since taking office in June. But the policeman's death also softened questions that may have otherwise been raised about Israel's repression of Hamas, undertaken on Sunday and Monday for the official purpose of interrogating activists on Toledano's whereabouts.

The fundamentalist movement has stung the army with a series of costly attacks on soldiers in recent weeks, including an ambush north of Gaza City that killed three soldiers last Sunday. Unlike the PLO, Hamas is ideologically opposed to a territorial compromise with Israel, which it views as usurping sacred Islamic lands.

There now seems little prospect of an early release for many detainees. Ministers made no effort yesterday to conceal their bitterness that the kidnappers had not followed the advice of Shalikh Ahmed Yassin, Hamas's jailed leader, to spare Toledano's life. "The terrorists deceived the government and led us on in an attempt to negotiate for a hostage they had already murdered," said Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the housing minister.

After the kidnapping on Sunday in the Tel Aviv suburb of Lod, a Hamas cell claimed responsibility and said it would kill the policeman unless authorities freed Shalikh Yassin. Mr Rabin responded by saying he would negotiate provided signs of life from Toledano were provided. Meanwhile, security forces made mass arrests, apparently from a long list of previous-



Behind bars: Gaza activist Mahmoud al-Zahar has been detained by the Israelis

ly jailed activists, including the Gaza activist, Dr Mahmud al-Zahar. Arrested on Monday night at his home, he had signed a compromise to free both Shalikh Yassin and Toledano. He said Israel should allow a panel of doctors to examine the shalikh, who is in poor health, and

decide whether he was fit to remain in prison.

Israel also detained the Reuter correspondent in the Gaza Strip, Taher Shrithe, who reported Dr al-Zahar's proposal. The correspondent's arrest brought a protest from Reporters sans Frontières, the French-based

press freedom watchdog. It called on Mr Rabin to ensure his early release. Shalikh Ahmed Beitawi, a preacher at Jerusalem's al-Aksa mosque was among the prominent West Bank Hamas supporters to be arrested.

Body retrieved, page 1

Peking purges military

Peking: Deng Xiaoping, the senior Chinese leader, has carried out a military reshuffle in the past month, the biggest since the founding of communist China according to an official report yesterday (Cathrine Sampson writes).

The aim was to bolster the position of Jiang Zemin, the Communist party general secretary, the Peking-controlled *Wen Wei Po* newspaper said. Mr Deng is believed to be trying to reassert party control over the military.

The paper omitted to mention the widespread belief that the reshuffle is a purge of those loyal to General Yang Baibing. He was removed from all his military posts at the party congress in October.

Grave daubed

Berlin: Suspected neo-Nazi painted swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans on the grave of Walther Rathenau, the Jewish foreign minister of Germany assassinated by rightwingers in 1922, police said. Rathenau was killed by officers for negotiating with the victorious Allies. (Reuters)

Charge dropped

New York: A Los Angeles judge has ordered that charges be dropped against a Mexican doctor, Humberto Alvarez Machain, who was kidnapped at the behest of the Drug Enforcement Agency and brought to America to stand trial for the murder of a DEA agent in 1985.

Work slip-up

Tokyo: Masakuni Murakami, Japan's new labour minister, retracted a public statement in which he had said that of the top industrialised nations, only the Germans and the Japanese worked hard, which he said explained their success.

Enquiry starts

Johannesburg: The military dictator of the Transkei homeland, Major General Bantu Holomisa, said a judicial enquiry would investigate the existence of training camps for the armed wing of the Pan Africanist Congress.

Quake toll rises

Masore: The death toll from an earthquake in east Indonesia rose to 1,895 as the government stepped up rescue operations on Flores island and teams recovered more bodies, an official said. (Reuters)

Nest egg

Taipei: A Taiwanese pigeon fancier who tried to use a homing pigeon to collect £75,000 from a food manufacturer by threatening to poison its products has been arrested, police said. (Reuters)

UN team is thwarted over Salvador killings

By DAVID ADAMS

AS BOTH sides in El Salvador's civil war yesterday celebrated the disarmament and demobilisation of the rebel military forces and their conversion into a civilian political party, investigations were continuing into unsolved human rights atrocities which claimed thousands of lives.

A United Nations commission investigating the past crimes is complaining that it has been denied access to American military officials and intelligence documents that could shed light on those responsible. The commission, which was appointed by the

UN as part of the peace accord signed earlier this year, is due to submit a report next month on wartime abuses in an effort to reach an objective account of the 12-year conflict in which 75,000 people died. Among the abuses being investigated is the 1980 murder of Archbishop Oscar Romero and the 1989 killing of six Jesuit priests.

Thomas Buergenthal, the American member of the UN team, said: "I am particularly annoyed and shocked that I cannot interview American military officers who were in El Salvador." He said a request was turned down by the Pentagon for off-the-record, confidential interviews with no targeting of individuals "just to help us get a picture of what was happening in El Salvador". Instead the Pentagon said he could submit written questions.

"As the US member I find it particularly shocking that I am not allowed to speak to my own citizens who served there. I just find it outrageous and unjustified," he said. Observers believe the Pentagon and the CIA may be hiding embarrassing evidence about the role of American officials in the war. The US still officially maintains that many of the alleged army abuses never happened, including the massacre of hundreds of civilians on the Lempa and Sumpul rivers and at a remote village called El Mozote.

Surprise gift: Dan Quayle, making what probably will be his last foreign trip as vice-president, yesterday delivered a surprise gift — a \$464 million (£290 million) debt reduction at the ceremony ending the war. (AP)

Ross Perot figure enlivens Korean election

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN SEOUL

THE bark of the campaign lorry's loudspeakers split the freezing dusk air like an axe. Buddled up in a rough grey coat and smiling as stiffly as a frozen fish, an opposition party campaigner was addressing a rapt crowd of working class South Koreans, offering populist give-aways such as lower taxes with all the assurance of a veteran democrat.

But South Korea's democracy is only five years old, born under President Roh Tae Woo, the latest in three decades of military leaders. On Friday it will be put to the test when the country goes to the polls to elect its first civilian president.

It does not take much detective work to predict that the name of the next man to lead Korea. He will be President Kim, a dissident and perennial presidential aspir-

ant. The difficult part is predicting which of the two Kims who fit this description will win. They are Kim Young Sam, presidential candidate of the ruling Democratic Liberal party, and Kim Dae Jung, candidate for the main opposition Democratic Party, and are distinguished in a country where roughly a quarter of the population answers to the name of Kim, as YS and DJ.

The answer depends largely on the performance of the two main candidates. Chung Ju Yung, the autocratic founder of Korea's second-largest South Korean conglomerate, and leader of the party he founded in January, the United People's party.

The charismatic 77-year-old points to his business career as evidence of his ability to improve the national econ-

omy. Mr Chung is often referred to as the Ross Perot of the Korean presidential election, a self-made tycoon offering populist pledges and threatening to upset the dynamics of what was to have been a two man race.

Mr Chung is not happy with the comparison. "I am much, much richer than Mr Perot," he said recently. His personal wealth is estimated at \$22 billion (the second highest in the country) a fortune that has arisen from the kind of flinty parsimony that drives Mr Chung to build and repair his modest home from Hyundai cast-offs and to wear his shoes until holes appear in the soles.

The rags to riches tale of Mr Chung's ascendancy from the poor, ill-educated rice delivery boy to chairman of one of the world's most powerful multi-

sector industrial groups holds great appeal for Korea's working classes. While that appeal, and an estimated 400 billion won (£336 million) to spare for his campaign, is unlikely to send Mr Chung to the Blue House, many analysts believe that he has attracted supporters in droves from traditional pro-Democratic Liberal party sectors and will turn the election into a very close race between the two Kims.

With between 25 and 40 per cent of the electorate said to be still undecided, unofficial polls give Kim Young Sam a narrow lead. Whatever the outcome, Mr Chung's candidacy has stirred up political debate in the nation's bus queues and cafes and is likely to ensure that the Korean love affair with the voting booth remains as passionate as ever.

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*Source: Romtec

This advertisement was placed by the Newspaper Publishers Association.

PEOPLE
READ
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Whether suits or hotpants are the order of the day... the office dress code must be followed, says Rosie Millard



Dress sense: computer manager Tracy Wyman and surveyor Jonathan Dean in their offices. "The general rule is not to dress better than your boss," Ms Wyman says

Keeping up appearances

Thomas Pink, the shirtmaker, has an advertisement running in some of the smarter journals featuring a senior partner admonishing a subordinate, the message underneath runs "You'll never get to the top in a shirt like that..." (the point being that he should dress in shirts by Thomas Pink). Fond imagining maybe, but the underlying message is a truism. As any ambitious office worker knows, it is imperative to wear the right gear for work.

The office dress code is as acknowledged as ever, albeit mostly an unwritten one. It is a message to which employees' antennae are immediately tuned when they enter the office on day one, and which they continue to observe for the rest of their working life.

"You always have to wear a correct tie," says Jonathan Dean, a surveyor at the property firm Healey & Baker. "You never know who you're going to meet. I once wore a Liberty tie and it was definitely the wrong thing. People started making vague comments about it. Go in without a tie? Never."

His colleague Amanda Pearce was equally clear about the firm's dress code for its female employees. "We all wear skirts and jackets. Never trousers. In fact, the secretaries have all had memos saying No Trousers. I think surveying is such a male-dominated profession that if you walked in wearing a trouser suit, people might say you were trying to be a man."

Most people get the hang of what to wear by observing their peers and seniors. When in doubt, refer upwards, but take care not to get too carried away. "The general rule is not to dress better than your boss," says Tracy Wyman, a computer manager who recently moved from the Rome to the London branch of American Express. "If he or she is wearing a suit, then you should wear a skirt and jacket, but not the full deal."

The Italian idea of dressing for work is not quite along the same lines as ours, according to Ms Wyman. "The Italians are expected to dress as sexually as possible. All the women wear tight skirts and low neck-lines." "We get many cases about dress codes," says June Bridgeman, who is the deputy chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission. "Including ones from men who wish to go to work in a dress." According to Ms Bridgeman, there is nothing written down in law about what you must or must not wear to the office, but two legal cases concerning this matter

follow a 1977 test case, in which it was decided that "the employer is entitled to a large measure of discretion in controlling the image of his establishment..."

And very confusing these images are too. This month Lisa Cresswell, an office worker, was dismissed from her job at Stoke-on-Trent Community Transport for wearing trousers. In contrast, employees at London Weekend Television regularly come in to work sporting velveteen hotpants, chiffon tops and Wonderbras. In fact, dress along these lines is actively encouraged, according to Susie Aptin, a music researcher for the Aspel programme. "My father says if he was my boss, he'd fire me for what I go to work in; but if I turned up in a suit, I'd just be laughed at. I'd feel like a fish out of water."

However, if the interview were with Red Ken rather than Simply Red, formal dress would be *de rigueur*. "We have to wear ties to work in case we are suddenly called to interview the Queen, or an MP," says Mark Gregory, the producer on BBC2's *Newsnight*. "I think a cabinet minister would say something if you turned up in jeans. The other day I was covering the Chancellor's speech

and I had to come to work in a dinner suit."

Perhaps all this silent legislation regarding office dress began with the Civil Service, long lampooned for operating in pin-stripes and bowlers. Yet according to Ms Bridgeman, who began her Civil Service career in the mid-1950s, the bastions of Whitehall are in fact more open to liberal values than one might give them credit for. "The Civil Service wants to give an image of control and serious authority and when I started, all the men did walk around in black jackets and striped trousers. But in the late 1960s we had some economists from several universities in my department. They all wore pink shirts and floppy bow ties and even smoked small cigars. This influence began to pervade and some of my colleagues started turning up in pink shirts."

By the 1970s, a hapless secretary of state tried to stop the women in Whitehall from wearing trouser suits. Ms Bridgeman says he had to "back down". It didn't stop there. "About five years ago I was outside walking past my office, when I saw a bunch of bearded people in jeans," she says. "I thought 'Oh no, it's a demo.' It turned out to be my own staff waiting for the daily milk delivery."

However, it would seem that

propriety in office dress is still as strong as ever, and not only from the point of the hirs and firs. Melissa Court, an accounts consultant at the travel operators Trailfinders, takes pride in turning up for work well manicured, coiffed and suited. "Looking smart gives you great self-esteem. If you go into work wearing leggings and an old sweater, I don't see how you can operate properly. It probably wouldn't physically impair your performance, but it might do mentally. What you wear to work displays your attitude to yourself and your career."

Even that almighty obstacle course, the office party, is still an arena wherein most choose to play the propriety card as regards dress. Gone are those helpful hints from women's magazines about lipstick-stained teeth or overfull corsets. With a sophisticated sixth sense, we are all expected to know just how to dress for the office, day or night. Perhaps it just isn't worth upsetting the balance for the sake of a Westwood bustier or Gaultier male skirt. "There was a secretary who turned up to our Christmas do in a kind of bra," says Ms Pearce. "That caused a bit of a stir. But most of us just wear traditional stuff. We're a very staid bunch, I'm afraid."

Not in my stocking

Christmas, Mamma, bless it, remains a land of fantasy. The whole occasion pululates with traditions, large numbers of them utterly spurious but nonetheless beloved. One, for instance, is the concept that television raises itself briefly from the mediocre to the marginally viewable. Another, of an even more recent vintage, is that men — new men, now men — have forsaken their old loves, the ill-matched ties and socks, the tasteless sweaters, the aftershave gleaned from the by-products of chemical waste, and turned instead to a variety of exotically tasteful pleasures — all strutting their glossy stuff across the pages of the style magazines.



JONATHAN GREEN

Let's check out the bazaar. Tell me, who do you actually know whose eyes, still gawped from last night's clubbing, yearn to open upon 90 quids' worth of silver Bic? Or the Finance Pack, an add-on for your electronic organiser, which, *inter alia*, "warns of impending overdrafts by beeping". Or a chair called, ask not why, "Dr Glob".

Let's indulge. Come back Aunty's ill-knit sweater

Or indeed, an object right up there with olive-pippers and solar powered swizzle sticks, the "qwango", essentially a stick with a scoop, which is to be employed when picking up one dog's ball from the ground, thus avoiding any unsightly spittle stains on the Hugo Boss. Then there's the electric stapler, fifty-five count them, fifty-five pounds and indeed 50p for a matt black Alien look-alike which, presumably, clones much the same duties as its lowly hand-held cousins. And there's more. A small chunky packet nestles beneath the tree. Unwrapped it reveals some CDs. But no music here, unless it be that of chomping teeth, for these are the Sony Masterworks Dinner Classics: a melange, as the culls put it, of romantic music, classic menus and recipes from Keith Floyd. O tempora, O mores!

One further, quintessential Christmas myth is that it should be comforting, homely. These are not comforting magazines; they do not advocate soothing gifts. Final repositories of the dreams of a dead decade, they struggle to keep the yuppie flames guttering still. But this is Christmas, let's indulge the fantasies. Enough with competitive consumption. Come back Aunty's ill-knit sweater, and some slippers would be lovely too.

Sarah Mower is on holiday

There's one drawn every minute ...

Bill Clinton and his "car dealer hair" are a gift for cartoonists

To America's political cartoonists Bill Clinton is a face just begging to be exploited, a physiognomic feast.

For starters there is that hair, one reason cited regularly by voters during the election for sticking with President Bush. "A blow-dried steel wall," Tom Toles of the *Buffalo News* says. "A porcupine helmet," says Jim Borgman of the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. "Car-dealer hair," says Pat Oliphant, a widely-syndicated cartoonist.

Dan Wasserman of the *Boston Globe*, calls it "a remarkable haircut", adding: "He keeps toying with it. He keeps looking for the perfect presidential hairdo. I try to keep up to date with his hair, but it takes a lot of research."

Another joy will be one of the more bulbous presidential noses ever to grace the Oval Office. "It looks like it belonged on the face of W. C. Fields," Mr Toles says. "I got a complaint from a reader that I was drawing it like a male organ." Mike Luckovich of the *Atlanta Constitution* says, "I looked at it and he was absolutely right."

Below the nose it is a merciless free-for-all. Auth of



The face that launched a thousand quips: the Clinton look as seen by, from left, Kal, Mike Luckovich and Wright

the *Philadelphia Inquirer* portrays the next leader of the free world as one enormous chin. Kal of the *Baltimore Sun* gives him the look of a giant hamster, all cheeks and two protruding upper teeth. Most give him big cheeks and protruding teeth. Mr Borgman, by way of mitigation, also gives him a "kind of Elvis sort of smile"; but then he admits to being a closet Clinton fan. If the American electorate consisted only of the country's

200 or so political cartoonists, Ross Perot, not Mr Clinton, would be the next president, the winner by a landslide. "As a cartoonist you hope the ugliest guy wins," says Mr Luckovich, and the diminutive, jug-eared Texas billionaire had no rival in that department. "If Perot had won I'd have had to come in at weekends," Mr Borgman says. "He was visually unique. He was like a gift from the gods dropped in our laps."

But after four years of Mr

Bush, Mr Clinton was still a huge relief. During Mr Bush's term of office his chin has got longer and his forehead ever craggier, but he left most cartoonists cold. He was "angular, thin, did nothing. There was no real character to deal with," Mr Oliphant complains. "He was a fairly generic bureaucrat. It was slim pickings," Mr Borgman agrees.

In fact, of recent presidents only Gerald Ford was more unpopular among the doodling classes. Mr Ford fell over

a lot, and bumped into things, but was almost legendary for being impossible to portray. "He had a face that looked like the back of my thumb it was so bland," said Don Wright, the veteran cartoonist of the *Palm Beach Post*. Jimmy Carter, with his blubbery lips and great smiling teeth, and Ronald Reagan, with his animated actor's face, were good fodder, but best of all was Richard Nixon, who was never portrayed without hunched shoulders, heavy eye-

brows and shifty, paranoid eyes.

The cartoonists still lavish praise on Tricky Dicky. "Nixon ushered in the golden age of political modern cartooning. He had that wonderful combination of political face and political soul," Mr Borgman says. "Nixon was not only fun to draw, but a criminal as well." Auth says. "From the point of view of post-world war two cartoonists," Mr Wasserman says, "Nixon set a standard of dishonesty and malice against which all others are judged."

These are still early days for Mr Clinton. The cartoonists are striving to distill his physical features into a few instantly-recognisable lines. They have barely begun to infuse those lines with a sense of his personality, and most admit that over the years their characterisations of Mr Bush changed beyond recognition. According to Mr Wasserman, "whether Clinton turns out to be an inspiring leader or another in a succession of disappointing liars will be all-determining" in how he is depicted. Some of Mr Wasserman's colleagues are already making predictions. As time goes on and his honeymoon fades, expect Mr Clinton's eyes to get closer together, the bags beneath them to become more pronounced, and his nose to get larger and larger until someone shows it blowing up in his face.

MARTIN FLETCHER

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Bryan Appleyard

■ Military euphemisms obscure the harsh realities of fighting a real war

K alashnikovs and smart bombs may break our bones, but words can do serious damage. Put the right name to something, however horrible, and it becomes feasible. And that is what is now happening worldwide over Bosnia — after months of finding the right language to die for, the rhetoric has, at last, begun to fall into place.

Paddy Ashdown is currently our leading linguist. Reporting from the frontline he says of Sarajevo that "The Serbs now have their thumb on the city's jugular," and adds that the city "has become a symbol of the UN and Europe's capacity to make peace around its borders". The first evokes the old tradition of glorious self-defence as did Churchill's "some chicken, some neck" speech during the second world war and the second employs the word "symbol" to send a thrill of motivation through the nation. Symbols are always worth a few bodybags. To add high, tough credibility to his bellicose dialect he dismisses a close encounter with Serbian hardware with the innocuous "a mortar round is pretty much the same anywhere".

John Major, less of a rhetorical virtuoso, has fallen back on the dead language of diplomatic militarism. He speaks of "a tinderbox for a wider Balkan conflict". There are no tinderboxes in the real world, there are only ominous memories of the phrase used in 19th-century war games.

This change in the discourse on Bosnia has happened because the humanitarian language has failed. Stopping Serbian rape and infanticide fired popular and some governmental emotion, but the waves of feeling constantly crashed against a sea-wall of complexity and "logistics" — another word which has been made commonplace by modern war.

War language has two aims: first to get us to fight and, second, to anaesthetise us when the fighting starts. Mr Ashdown's use of the word "symbol" was a fine example of the first in that it was intended to persuade us that Sarajevo was not just a local mess but a global challenge. Examples of the second are almost laughably familiar from recent wars — "mopping up", "surgical strikes", "exclusion zones" and so on, up to the superb American attempt during Vietnam to rechristen napalm, when it suddenly became regarded as a weapon too hideous and indiscriminate to use, as "incendogel".

Once the tanks are rolling the anaesthetic process moves on to the sublimation of real blood into the boyish thrills of strategy and military kit. Doubt will be silenced by the consideration that our boys are in the field and what counts now is winning. Freed from our qualms we become intrigued by the technology and the tactics. The Gulf war was a high-tech show, an almost abstract ballet of cruise missiles and laser-guided bombs.

Indeed, the general point about all war language is that it is designed to achieve abstraction. It must remove us from the local truth because, confronted by individual death and suffering, we are inclined to interpret reality as unique and personal. But for war to happen at all it must have a general, transpersonal function.

In Britain war talk springs easily to our lips. In part this is because we have a good record from the second world war through some of the negative campaigns of decolonisation to the positive ones of the Falklands and the Gulf. But, more depressingly, it may be because it is the only good record we have. As almost every British institution from the law to the monarchy seems to be undergoing a total systems failure, only the armed services seem to have maintained a degree of credibility, a unity of language and performance. Their words of can-do seduce and impress a nation that, increasingly feels, it cannot.

Admirable as the armed forces may be, this is, obviously, a dangerous state of mind. Perhaps, in the case of Bosnia, the rhetoric is justified, perhaps we should be talked into war. The problem is that we cannot really tell, the words do not work in the way that they should. As a result, the first bodybags from the Balkans are in danger of being greeted by a deadly silence.

Russia has blown its last real hope of social and economic reform, writes Anne McElvoy in Moscow

The breaking of Boris

When Boris Yeltsin mounted the Congress podium to announce that he was forsaking Yegor Gaidar as his candidate for prime minister and approving Viktor Chernomyrdin, he stood with his head bowed as if to gather his last reserves of strength before launching into a stumbling, contradictory statement accepting a man as the head of his government who can rank only as a threat to his reforms.

Mr Yeltsin conveyed a picture of pure human misery, the more pathetic for being a figure whose trademarks have always been scorn, determination, authority and a good dollop of "I know I'm right" arrogance. The last two weeks of daily battle with an increasingly confident opposition at the assembly have reduced his swagger to a lumber. The dismissive tone in which he was wont to address his foes has been replaced by one of pleading laced with bitterness.

To what extent the buffeting he has received will be reflected in the treatment of reform is the question which dominates post-

Congress Russia. Once again the country is thrust into a battle between reform and reaction being fought at the heart of power.

Mr Chernomyrdin is the incarnation of what the Yeltsin team has hitherto stood against. He wants to go slow where the reformers seek to move fast, favours the role of the state where they elect the market, stands for the loosening of monetary policy where they see the resulting inflation as the greatest threat to prosperity. Imagine Margaret Thatcher sharing the running of the country with John Prescott and you have some idea of what has come to pass in Moscow.

He claims that he is a reformer — but so do all Russian politicians except the honest Brezhnevites and pan-Slavists. He is not lying, but he is using the word in a different frame of reference to that of the proponents of radical change. It is the

difference between the reform project of Mikhail Gorbachev, which aimed to make an existing centralised system work better, and that of Mr Yeltsin and Mr Gaidar, which aimed to break the mould entirely. The unspoken motto of his ilk is Back to the Future.

The demise of Mr Gaidar, the man who wanted to leap forward to the future more quickly than the monolithic culture around him could follow, is a harsh blow to Mr Yeltsin. It is a blow to his reputation, since he had pledged several times that he would never back anyone else for the premier's post, to his authority, since it showed his will being defied by Congress



President Yeltsin: forced to plead

even after a string of compromises, to the business of government, since he was happiest to leave the daily economic decisions to his brilliant protégé and concentrate on the politics, and to his own well-being.

Mr Yeltsin is a very Russian combination of strength and sentimentality and his trust in Mr Gaidar was absolute. His spokesman lamented the end of the partnership yesterday saying "Yeltsin and Gaidar were in each others hearts and souls", which even in the strongly personalised world of Russian politics is closer than normal. He identified success in keeping reforms on track with keeping Mr Gaidar, a mistake since it gave the opposition the advan-

tage of a single human target at which to point its fire.

Mr Yeltsin's position at the beginning of Congress was not easy but he still had the support of the people and his presidency ranked as untouchable. The opposition was fierce but fissionary and lacked the organisational power of the Yeltsin camp and a strong figurehead. The diehard anti-government vote when the assembly convened was just one-third. By the end it was nearly two-thirds, a development for which he can chiefly be blamed.

His performance was lacklustre and showed that he had failed to appreciate the importance of this trial of strength. When he did snap last week with a denunciation of the chamber, his outpouring was so intemperate and filled with loathing for the company he addressed that he turned sullen resistance to his will into a desire to defeat it.

The result is that he has been forced to accept a prime minister he did not want. In fact, to reinforce the insult, Congress offered him a choice of two prime ministers he did not want: the other candidate was Yuri Skokov the hardline chairman of the security council whose loyalties are questionable.

Our first glimpse of the new premier, still dazed after his leap from deciding the fate of oil subsidies one minute to heading the government the next, came when, sombre-faced, square-headed and wearing the inevitable raincoat, he greeted the visiting Chancellor Kohl. There was something strangely familiar about his stolid physiognomy and the habit of delivering promising half-sentences only for their substance to evaporate in the second clause. "I am for deepening reforms, but not at the price of impoverishing the people," was rapidly followed by "I am for the market but not for the bazaar". There was a slightly ghostly aura around an otherwise unremarkable man: the spectre of *homo sovieticus* at the helm of Russia once more.

Suffer the little children

Young patients are being shamelessly exploited by London hospitals

The little face bursts across two pages of the *Daily Mirror*, a picture of joy. "Please, Mrs Bottomley, SAVE children like me," says eight-year-old Rachel. A story-faced Virginia Bottomley lurks at the foot of the page, clearly unmoved. "I don't think Bart's should be closed down," pleads Rachel, "because lots of children could die."

Rachel is joined by Amy who has been offered to the *Evening Standard*: "Amy owes her life to a doctor's sixth sense... where are people going to go without it?" There is no other hospital this side of the pearly gates. The

reporter from *Today* is not to be outdone: "My nephew's wasted body lay close to death... the most pitiful sight I have ever seen... But he was lucky: the London hospital he was admitted to was St Bartholomew's. Unbelievably, vandals in our government are now planning to close this magnificent institution."

Britain's infants, the *Mirror* is told, lie tragic and defenceless before Mrs Bottomley's heartless scythe. "Their wide eyes shine bright... one pair with impish delight, the other with shy wonder." Even the royal family is moved: "Bart's only crime," cries the Duke of Gloucester, "is to try too hard."

Oh to be a hospital when at war with the Treasury! A doomed colossus can only wield a Grimethorpe band. A threatened regiment must pen a whingeing letter to *The Times*. A dismembered university refuses the prime minister a degree. But a London teaching hospital gives no quarter to reason or proportion. The nation must be told: the health secretary rises each morning, stirs a cup of coffee, drives into town and slaughters babies on the pavements of Smithfield. So there, prime minister, what do you say to that argument?

My enthusiasm for Bart's is both personal and intense. There may even be a case for its survival against the manifest reasonableness of the Tomlinson report on London hospitals, which says it should close. But its exploitation of its child patients in the pages of the tabloid press suggests it has no confidence in rational argument. It makes me shudder. It is the public expenditure equivalent of an African renting a deformed child to beg from tourists. Bart's publicists are



"Massacre of the Innocents" (detail)
John Brinkman after Brueghel

clearly taking a leaf out of George Bush's campaign book, that any means however tacky justifies the end. But do they?

Seasoned ministers say that the London hospital consultants are the most unscrupulous and unreasonable lobby in British politics. They beat the famous diavolism of the National Union of Mineworkers and the Roman Catholic Church. They beat the lawyers. They even beat the Royal Navy's "save the carrier" mafia. The key to their power is playing on newspaper susceptibility to pictures of sick

children. The sternest editorial guardian of the public purse crumples at the sight of Little Nell. So every Little Nell in town is recruited to the colours.

So far Bart's and its fellow institutions have seen off 19 attempts at reform over the past century. The resulting shambles, for such is the London hospital scene, has become the running story of the NHS. Ministers chided for the poor state of London's health, the worst yet most costly in the country, are told by officials, "Then clean up the London

hospitals!" None has had the guts. The hospitals are not just the Augean stables of health politics but all Hercules' labours rolled into one.

I cannot imagine Mrs Bottomley welcomes the task. But history, circumstance and John Major have imposed it on her, with a push from the King's Fund and Tomlinson reports. To funk reform now might require as much courage as to proceed with it. The figures indicate overlapping and waste on all sides. Teaching hospitals charge twice the national aver-

age per bed. Five thousand beds have been cut with falling demand, but not a consultant has gone. There are 17 radiotherapy centres when there need be only four. Health care costs 45 per cent more in London than elsewhere. Hospitals must be closed, says Tomlinson, and money should be diverted to primary care, to GPs, surgeries, day centres and local clinics.

Tomlinson has been greeted with an eerie silence from most of the "fingered four" teaching hospitals and the eight doomed specialist hospitals. Perhaps

they know the game is up, that they are so inefficient and expensive that the internal market will soon bankrupt them anyway. But Bart's is fighting back and is clearly ready to fight dirty. Mrs Bottomley should watch her step when next crossing Harley Street.

Perhaps Bart's should merely fight clean. What is not clear is how Tomlinson ties in with the internal market. His calculations assume high commercial valuation of hospital sites, particularly Bart's. But there is no way Bart's main buildings, historic and magnificent, could become an office block. Their true market value is negative. Bart's present predicament is due to bad management, to the past indulgence of its consultants. Few hospitals have experience yet of the new commercialism of London health. Nor is it fair to "charge" them for sites donated long ago by benefactors, any more than the church should charge parishioners for the potential commercial rent of church premises.

Bart's could presumably try its luck as a specialised private or trust hospital, buying patients from the NHS. It could also serve as a long-stay "cottage hospital" for those who want to be in the heart of London and pay for it. I cannot believe that marvellous old building, the last hospital in the City, cannot be viable on what should be a free site. Bart's own rescue plan includes being a centre for the preventive medicine fanatics of the Square Mile.

In other words, there must be a dozen internal market options for hospitals short of closure. Other public-sector institutions have discovered that enterprise and good management can rescue even hopeless cases, even coalmines. Some of these options might reject the old-fashioned, big-is-beautiful theme that ran through much of Tomlinson. Great cities need small institutions, not just economies of scale. Bart's need not be big or highly specialised to offer a service to its community. It might have to change its character, but so what?

I sense that Mrs Bottomley may be girding herself to concede a partial saving of Bart's as the price for getting the rest of Tomlinson. Such a grand triumph might be worth a small retreat. But Bart's would fare better if it fought its corner with more dignity. At present its friends must squirm whenever they open a newspaper.

Not humbug after all

AFTER exploratory literary surgery on the Charles Dickens novel *A Christmas Carol*, one of America's top paediatric doctors has diagnosed that Tiny Tim, the sickly son of Ebenezer Scrooge's assistant, suffered from a kidney complaint which made his blood acidic. Dickens was unspecific about precisely what ails Tiny Tim, who nearly dies in the classic Christmas yarn, but after examining the original 1843 manuscript and consulting 19th-century medical text books, Dr Donald Lewis, paediatric neurologist at the US Naval Hospital in Virginia, has concluded that Tiny Tim had distal renal tubular acidosis (type 1).

Dr Lewis studied the case of Tiny Tim in order to illustrate for students how to diagnose child illnesses, and his findings are published in this month's issue of *The American Journal of Diseases of Children*.

The fact that Charles Dickens could not have known about the kidney disease (which was not recognised until the 20th century) does not mean that he would not have seen many such cases, says Dr Lewis, who based his diagnosis on a number of factors. Tim Cratchit

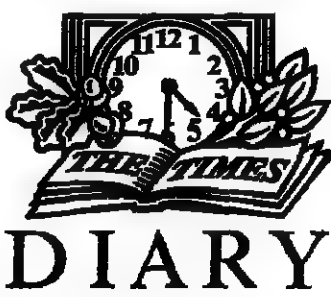
had only one crutch, suggesting that the illness affected one side of his body more than the other, and also suffered from recurrent bouts of weakness and limpness. The paediatrician also took into account the social and environmental conditions of 19th-century London.

In Dickens's day effective therapies for the kidney disease were available, but given Scrooge's parsimony the Cratchits would doubtless have been unable to afford them; that, says Dr Lewis, is why Tiny Tim manifests the disease in such an advanced form, and also explains why he recovers after Scrooge's change of heart and newfound generosity, the Cratchits were presumably able to afford the best medical treatment in London and Tiny Tim no doubt went on to live a full and fruitful life.

Dr Lewis writes that while other diagnoses are possible, kidney disease most neatly fits with Tiny Tim's symptoms. God bless us every one!

Hot Wadders

LORD Waddington has taken to his new office in Bermuda like a duck to the sub-tropical Atlantic



waters surrounding the island. More important, Bermuda has taken to Waddington. In the few months since he donned his ostrich-plumed hat, the new governor has established a formidable reputation as an after-dinner speaker.

Last week in Hamilton, a gathering of 200 off-shore insurance men listened enraptured as "Waddens" waxed lyrical on his favourite subject: his former boss, Baroness Thatcher. "Mrs Thatcher floated into office in 1979 because people really did feel that some sort of order had to be restored. Otherwise Britain would have become completely ungovernable," he told the assembled diners.

The former home secretary revealed that whenever he thought about Lady Thatcher the image which came into his mind was that of *Jane's Fighting Ships*, the stan-

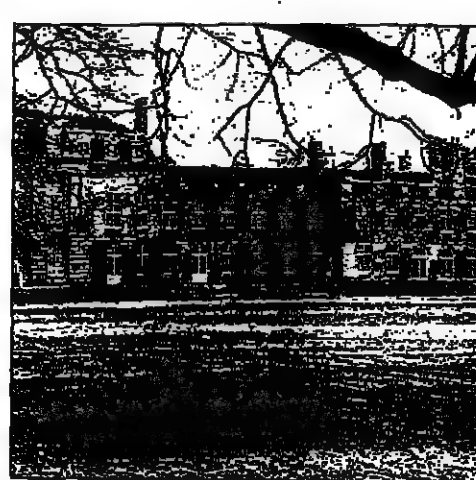
dard reference work on the world's military vessels. "All the adjectives you apply to her are ones that are applied to ships, like indefatigable, indomitable and illustrious."

Should Lady Thatcher, renowned for her dislike of holidays, decide to visit the island she would be welcomed with open arms, such is the public relations work done by Waddington. Another who is likely to be received warmly is Lord Tebbit. As a result of Waddington's speeches, islanders now know him as an "avenging angel who transformed the employment department into a scourge of the unions in a matter of weeks".

When Martin Fitzwater, George Bush's White House media spokesman, clears his desk he will leave behind a souvenir for his successor. Left for him by his predecessor, Larry Speakes, it is a sheet of yellowing notepaper which simply says: "Don't forget: you don't have to explain what you don't say."

Lucubrations

PROFESSOR Norman Gower, principal of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, part of the University of London, has come down with an acute attack of NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) syndrome.



Gower, who has almost 30 years experience as a university teacher, last month opposed an appeal by the University of Westminster to convert buildings near his Islington home into a hall of residence for 140 students. In his submission he states that: "From my own experience, I know that students will sit up until the early hours — perhaps



all night — with the lights blazing in all the windows."

Gower, who is opposed to the proposals on 11 counts, insists that he has nothing against insomniacs for students. They are under great intellectual and social pressures, experimenting and learning, living a life with a different rhythm and

style to other members of the community". But not, he hopes, living it in his back yard.

Things have changed over the years at World in Action, the Granada series which celebrates its 30th anniversary next month, according to Paul Greengrass, an employee of the programme. Writing about the early days in tomorrow's edition of *CQ* magazine, he says: "World in Action was unashamedly part of the counter-culture. Programmes were put together in a haze." Reporters could get away with a lot more off screen as well as on. Greengrass reminisces about one expensive claim, itemised as "entertaining Laotian generals in opium den".





FOR THE PRINCE

The succession need not be disrupted, even by divorce

"The benefits of a good monarch are almost invaluable, but the evils of a bad monarch are almost irreparable," wrote Walter Bagehot 125 years ago. The evil that a monarch can do today is less than before, but the good is still not to be lightly dismissed.

In the days since the separation of the Prince and Princess of Wales was announced, various journalists and members of Parliament have used the news to justify their view that the Prince should renounce his right to the throne in favour of his son, William. If the Queen were then to die before Prince William reached adulthood, a regent would have to be installed.

Most purveyors of this argument assume that the separation will lead to divorce. They then suggest either that Prince Charles could not be crowned as king, and hence become head of the Church of England, were he to be divorced; or that the royal family is supposed to be a moral exemplar to the nation and that a broken marriage sets an unacceptably bad example.

There is little merit here. Few should need reminding that the Church of England was set up by Henry VIII precisely so that he could divorce his first wife, Katharine of Aragon, and marry his second, Anne Boleyn — or that he subsequently executed her, divorced the next-but-one wife and killed the fifth. As for the notion of monarchy as an irreproachable moral example, this is both a relatively new idea and one more honoured in the breach than in observance. It originates, like so many other British traditions, in the Victorian era. Queen Victoria's son, Edward VII, was no paragon, and Edward VIII broke all the moral codes of the day by marrying a divorcee.

George V, George VI and the present Queen have led admirable lives — a model which is doubtless what the Prince of Wales

would have wished for his own marriage. But circumstances conspired against success: the gap in age, the gulf in attitudes, the Prince's upbringing. Whoever is to blame for the breakdown, the Prince deserves sympathy for his plight, not punishment.

He has all the makings of what Bagehot would have deemed a good monarch. Rumours and innuendo, from however close the source, should not be allowed to obscure this truth. Prince Charles, like his mother, has a strong sense of duty. He is conscientious, thoughtful, responsible and compassionate. For the past 15 years, he has been allowed to see official papers, invaluable in building up the experience needed to exercise the only powers he would have as King, "the right to be consulted, the right to encourage, the right to warn".

A monarch is not expected to possess any great prescience or ability, which anyway is unlikely, according to Bagehot, to be found in a hereditary sovereign. But long years of reading cabinet and foreign office papers give the head of state priceless accumulated wisdom about affairs of state. The weekly audience at Buckingham Palace with the prime minister can be as useful to the premier as to the monarch.

There is no evidence that Prince William would prove better at this job than his father. His training for the job will have been 40 years shorter. The Prince of Wales has already proved his capacity to be a good monarch. His son is too young to be judged.

"The monarch is a person and a symbol", as Sir Ian Gilmour has put it. "He makes power and state both intelligible and mysterious." It is this form of symbolism, one on which the Prince of Wales's private life has no bearing, that is so powerful for Britain as a constitutional monarchy. Nothing would be served by its disruption.

MOSCOW MANOEUVRES

There is no cause for despair yet in the new Russian regime

The overthrow of Yegor Gaidar, the radical free-marketier who has dominated the Russian government since last year's break-up of the Soviet Union, is a disturbing and a potentially dangerous development. But it would be naive and alarmist to suggest that Mr Gaidar's replacement as prime minister by Viktor Chernomyrdin, a Soviet-era industrial manager, marks the end of the post-communist reform process, or signals a swing in the pendulum of Russian history back to an era of confrontation.

The revolution that began with Mikhail Gorbachev's *perestroika* reflected powerful economic and social forces that sprang from inside the decaying communist system. To say that the Russian revolution has been the product of ineluctable economic forces is not necessarily to fall into the old Marxist trap of historical determinism. People make history happen and, in destroying communism, great individual leaders have played the critical roles. Without the imagination of Mikhail Gorbachev, the courage of Boris Yeltsin and the relentlessness of Ronald Reagan, the forces of history might have slumbered in Russia for many more years or even decades. Among these great men, Mr Gaidar was never more than a bit player.

When President Yeltsin decided this week to sacrifice Mr Gaidar he acted like other successful politicians through the centuries. He betrayed a faithful friend and retreated on some of his principles, to further what he felt was the important objective of maintaining political stability ahead of the April referendum on a post-Soviet constitution.

Of course, Mr Yeltsin's compromise with the industrial interests represented by Mr Chernomyrdin may prove to be a miscalculation. But given Mr Yeltsin's past record of taking — and winning — huge

political and personal gambles in pursuit of his long-term goals, it ill behoves armchair observers in the west to second-guess his decision to back away from an all-out confrontation with the congress.

Neither should the new government under Mr Chernomyrdin be automatically dismissed as a throw-back to the communist era. The new prime minister has a reputation as a competent industrial manager. The same was true of Nikolai Ryzhkov, the disastrously over-cautious prime minister who was largely responsible for President Gorbachev's reluctance to move ahead with market reforms. What matters, however, is not the new prime minister's competence as a manager, or even his personality and past ideological position; it is the set of policies he and President Yeltsin now choose to pursue.

The new prime minister has promised to continue with pro-market economic reforms, but at a reduced speed. President Yeltsin has insisted that Russia's pro-western and non-interventionist foreign policy will not be affected by the change of regime.

The promise of continuity could mean carrying on with the privatisation which is beginning to win strong support from many industrial managers. It could also mean continuing with military conversion, albeit with a stronger safety net for the unemployed, financed partly with western aid.

Alternatively, the new government could mean price controls and centralised state orders, bigger subsidies for military exports and a less cooperative approach in foreign affairs. Until the new government shows evidence of astute behaviour, there is no cause for alarm, still less for despair. The west should not let down its guard but Russia deserves the benefit of the doubt.

YOU ONLY WRITE TWICE

Manuscripts are forever, and worth their weight in gold

The scent and sweat and suspense of a saleroom are nauseating at the far-end of a dark December afternoon. Then the soul-erosion produced by high bidding — a compost of greed and fear and nervous tension — become unbearable, and the senses awake and revolt from it.

James Bond suddenly knew that he was tired. With a conscious effort he switched his eyes from the rangy blonde dressed in a deceptively simple little black number that whispered Paris from every line and stitch. Instead he concentrated on the auctioneer, a young man in a Mr Pink shirt, Savile Row suit and Gucci shoes, with a smile on his lips but coldness in his eyes. He was older than he looked. A sinister emphasis came into the barker's voice as he declaimed: "Lot number 296: Ian Fleming's working notebook."

Bond flicked an almost invisible button on his Rolex to start the miniature video recorder fitted there by Q, took out his Mont Blanc fountain pen, and poised to write in his Filofax that he had found in beautifully tooled green Florentine leather by old Giorgio in his booth on the Ponte Vecchio.

M had looked grave when he broke the news at crack of dawn in his drab office that day. "Some lunatic is offering for sale at a vast price the notebook that records your early history and records of the Service, Bond. It contains such cryptic information as the fact that *gokuhl*, the Japanese for 'top secret', means 'you only live twice'. Normally I should advise you to take the profit and augh all the way to Coutts. But I suspect that

there is more to this than meets the eye."

From his housemaster at Fettes onwards, Bond had known bibliomanes who had been in their bonnets about collecting bookish bibelots, which is to literature what philately is to geography. Did he not himself, pseud old brand-collector, own the complete first edition of the novels of Walter Scott from the Crusader Press? He knew that the University of Kansas and other American universities bought up every scrap of manuscript from living authors, and that distinguished scholarly careers had been built on textual analysis of first versions and later emendations by every author from Homer to Julie Burchill. It had become more profitable for authors to copy out by hand their early books for resale than to write anything new.

This golden goose was rapidly ceasing to lay, as the word-processor and VDU replaced the manuscript and typescript scarred with amendment crossings-out and second thoughts. Bond's coded notebook was knocked down for £14,300 to a nephew and two nieces of Ian Fleming. But when a former British ambassador to Washington paid £418 for a dark blue suit and pair of gold monogrammed slippers belonging to Fleming, which he had himself put up for sale, Bond snapped shut his notebook. This queen bee would not stop buzzing. Something more than natural batty British worship of books as totems rather than words written down was going on. He stood up and pushed his way through the clutter of gilt chairs towards the blonde, and reality.

Fears of wider war in Balkans

From Mr Robin England

Sir, As your leading article ("Against aggression", December 5) made clear, the threat of a general war in south-east Europe is already very real. Equally, there exists for the first time in the UN an overwhelming majority in favour of the broad principles of liberal democracy and individual liberty under an enlightened law.

How then to proceed? The phased programme outlined in your leader seems apt but omits the option of tightening the land blockade. It seems that oil-laden barges are being allowed by UN monitors to enter the section of the Danube that borders Serbia, on the simple say-so of the captains that they will be discharging at more distant ports. What about armed UN monitors on the barges to ensure that the cargoes are not illicitly landed in Serbia?

You seem pessimistic that your message will evoke a positive response from the British government. I believe many of its most loyal supporters will be outraged if the Cabinet continue gravely to bury their heads in the sand, pretending that appropriate measures are already in place and that anyway a major military intervention would be reckless.

An air ban proclaimed openly from the start to be toothless, a modest military contingent armed and mandated to cope only with the most direct and superficial attacks on the relief convoys, the ludicrous charade of the Vance/Owen mission and the half-hearted land blockade — these pathetic measures form the framework not of a solution but of a colossal failure.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN ENGLAND,
34 Bowdoin Street, SW6,
December 8.

From Major-General R. S. N. Mans

Sir, Your leading article betrays a lack of logical thinking about armed intervention in Bosnia.

You urge Western governments to enforce the peace by all available means and you freely acknowledge that their forces may have to be used in combat, and that casualties will be sustained in pushing Serbs (and Croats) back from Bosnian territory. Yet you assert that this would not be war. I call this semantics.

You further suggest that only a relatively small force could turn the tide, dependent largely on superior air power. But searching out and destroying Serbian targets in the Bosnian mountains and forests would be a very difficult operation.

You criticise the British government's reluctance to become involved. It may well be that *Options for Change* has left us with no alternative. To keep the present UN-assigned battalion group in Bosnia demands at least a similar group be trained and equipped for its relief.

The media's orchestration of the situation in Bosnia, supported by certain politicians intent on self-aggrandisement, should not be allowed to mask the true consequences of further involvement. This needs to be spelled out far more clearly than it was in your leader.

Yours sincerely,
ROWLEY MANS,
51 Bank Cottage, Vinegar Hill,
Mildford on Sea, Hampshire.

From Mr D. Mihailovic

Sir, Drago Stambuk attempts to whitewash Croatia's involvement in the Bosnian civil war (letter, December 10).

During the seven months of war in Bosnia-Herzegovina the presence and involvement of the regular Croatian republic forces have been both documented and extensive. I understand there are estimated to be 40,000 Croatian army troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina and several thousand HOS (Croat neo-nazi) soldiers, who have made possible the near total annexation of Herzegovina by Croatia and its subsequent renaming as Herceg-Bosna.

Furthermore, there are said to be over 17 Croatian brigades in Bosnia-Herzegovina alone, which have been largely responsible for the total annihilation of 24 Serbian villages in the area between Mostar and Trebinje.

The UN should now take concrete steps against this aggression by applying sanctions against Croatia.

Yours faithfully,
D. MIHAILOVIC,
Serbian National Organisation,
106 Baker Street, W1,
December 11.

JP's and politics

From Mr K. F. Walters

Sir, The suggestion that 71 per cent of magistrates at Southampton vote Conservative (report, December 9) is inaccurate. The figures supplied by the Lord Chancellor's Department reflect magistrates' political allegiance early in 1992. I can confirm that, at present, less than 50 per cent of the magistrates at Southampton are Conservative "supporters", the remainder of the bench either supporting other political parties or having no political persuasion at all.

It is important to remember that political views are neither a qualification nor a disqualification for appointment to the magistracy. When making recommendations to the Lord Chancellor, advisory committees

Taking stock of plutonium supplies

From Mr Paul Leventhal and Ms Sharon Tanzer

Sir, The government should take note of the announcement by Japan on November 28 that she will stockpile 1.7 tonnes of plutonium in transit from France because of delays in Japan's breeder reactor program. This decision has particular relevance for Thorp, British Nuclear Fuels' thermal oxide reprocessing plant (letters, November 30, December 7), because European Community policy requires plutonium exports to be put to immediate and effective use. Japanese contracts make up the largest share of Thorp's business.

The EC policy of avoiding plutonium stockpiles in non-nuclear weapon states is a wise one. It applies to Euratom member states as well as to Japan.

To avoid a situation in which plutonium reprocessed at Thorp could not be returned to Japan because of a surplus there, the government should ask Japan to provide a full and complete account of its short-term plutonium requirements, with due consideration given to her domestic reprocessing capacity.

The International Atomic Energy Authority should also be asked to release its data on Japan's plutonium inventory. Our own analysis, done jointly with the Citizens' Nuclear Information Center of Tokyo, is that even before the plutonium ship left France Japan already had a plutonium inventory equivalent to a three-year supply for its plutonium-fueled reactors. Thus, Japan figures to have a very large surplus of plutonium, in clear violation of EC policy.

If Thorp begins without a realistic assessment of Japan's plutonium needs the UK could be left with an intensely radioactive plant, radioactive waste, and a plutonium stockpile that will have to be safeguarded, essentially, for ever. Start-up of Thorp should be deferred until it becomes clear whether Britain will become Japan's "nuclear dustbin".

Yours sincerely,
PAUL LEVENTHAL
(President),
SHARON TANZER
(Vice-president),
Nuclear Control Institute,
1000 Connecticut Avenue,
NW Suite 704,
Washington DC 20036, USA,
December 7.

From Mr John Gordon

Sir, Your recent correspondence appears to show some confusion over whether Britain has been in breach of her obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Pace Lord Melchett (letter, November 30) it is difficult to see how British Nuclear Fuels' thermal oxide repro-

cessing plant could itself breach these obligations. The NPT expressly provides for the rights of all parties to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under International Atomic Energy Authority safeguards: there are no clauses excluding reprocessing.

There are, however, non-proliferation risks in going ahead with Thorp reprocessing. It seems worth recalling the importance attached by the (Labour) government of the day, when Thorp was authorised in the late 1970s, to the need for an international plutonium storage agreement. This has proved impossible to negotiate.

I am not aware of what Dr David Lowry (letter, December 7) has been saying about possible breaches of UK non-proliferation obligations. What I have been saying is that there is strong reason to suppose from recent revelations that agreement to the sale of Matrix Churchill machine tools to Iraq, which it was suspected would be used to help the Iraqi nuclear weapon programme, ignored our obligations as a nuclear weapon state under article I of the NPT.

...not in any way to assist, encourage or induce any non-nuclear weapon state to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other explosive devices.

This development, with its implications for our credibility as a depository power and leading international champion of the NPT, is potentially at least as serious as breaches of the 1985 statement to Parliament on guidelines for arms exports to Iraq. It should also be covered by the Scott enquiry into those sales.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GORDON (Head,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
nuclear energy department, 1986-8),
68 Hornsey Lane,
Highgate, N6,
December 10.

From Lord Melchett, Executive Director of Greenpeace UK

Sir, John Guinness (letter, December 7) states it is not true that plutonium reprocessed at BNFL's thermal oxide reprocessing plant will increase the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation. Killy Little (same date) maintains that reactor-grade plutonium cannot be used for nuclear weapons.

As long ago as 1976 the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission stated that

...so far as reactor-grade plutonium is concerned, the fact is that it is possible to use this material for nuclear warheads at all levels of technical sophistication.

Yours sincerely,
PETER MELCHETT,
Executive Director,
Greenpeace UK,
Canonbury Villas,
Islington, N1,
December 8.

Similarly, on the election committee which will return ten members to LegCo, the governor has made a proposal on its composition — a matter on which the Basic Law is silent. Moreover, it is clear the Chinese themselves did not regard this issue as settled, since earlier this year they discussed quite different possible models for the committee's composition.

The government and the governor have said repeatedly that we wish to work in co-operation with China. On his arrival the governor said: "Good co-operation with China is my sincere aim and my profound wish."

The Chinese were consulted on the content of the governor's October address to LegCo. The Chinese foreign minister was fully briefed by Mr Hurd beforehand, and a personal message from the governor was given to officials in Peking.

It was made clear that that these were proposals, not firm decisions, and that we wanted to discuss them with China. But this was not a subject it would have been politically possible for the governor to discuss in secret with China before revealing any part of his thinking to the people of Hong Kong. Apart from any other consideration, to have done so would have fuelled the already high level of speculation in Hong Kong and created a climate of uncertainty and instability. The British government, and everyone with Hong Kong's best interests at heart, hope we shall soon be able to resume a calm and constructive dialogue with China.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR GOODLAD,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
King Charles Street, SW1,
December 14.

the magistrates' benches. Does Mr Byers think that this Tory bias leads to more or fewer convictions, tougher or more lenient sentences?

I am not a Conservative supporter. I sat as a magistrate in London for five years in the mid-1980s. I never found that party politics entered into decision-making. A good magistrate is a good magistrate, whatever his or her political beliefs.

Yours faithfully,
SARA MASON,
Lane Cottage, Amberley,
Nr Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Business letters, page 23

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Pools firm seeks lottery assurances

From Sir Desmond Pitcher, Group Chief Executive of the Littlewoods Organisation

Sir, Your account (leading article, December 11) of the meeting which representatives of the pools companies had with Peter Brooke on December 9 was wide of the mark. Far from giving us "little comfort", the heritage secretary listened attentively and sympathetically to every point we made.

We are not seeking "concessions", but assurances that, when the National Lottery Bill is enacted, the competition which the pools then face will be on fair and level terms.

The premise that the lottery is somehow a totally different product from the pools has effectively been abandoned. We have demonstrated that each is a harmless soft-gambling operation which appeals to anyone who is interested in a long-odds flutter with the hope of winning a big prize.

As almost half of pools turnover now goes to good causes — in the form of payments to the Football Trust and to the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, and in pool betting duty — we are to an even greater extent fulfilling the role which the Royal Commission on Gambling described in 1978 — "the pools in a sense are a national lottery run on behalf of the Exchequer".

We are of course concerned that the government may be put under pressure to rig the competitive framework in the lottery's favour. Research conducted by Coopers & Lybrand (report, December 9) points to a 40 per cent loss in Littlewoods' turnover and the disappearance from the market of Vernons and Zetters unless pools are allowed to compete fairly with the lottery.

Press reports indicate that the government's own consultants have submitted a report which comes to broadly similar conclusions.

On the assumption that the National Lottery Bill provides for the sale of tickets through shops, for jackpots to be "rolled over" from one week to another, and for the lottery to be promoted as a "lucky numbers" game, these same opportunities should be extended to the pools.

In addition, the Treasury must ensure that the tax treatment of the pools and the national lottery is fair and comparable — the percentage taken out in tax and in payments to good causes should be the same for pools as for the lottery. And lastly, if the lottery is to be advertised on television, the prohibition on the pools from doing so should be lifted.

These are the points we put to Peter Brooke. We think it inconceivable that a government committed to fair competition, and genuinely appreciative of the contribution which pools have made to national well-being in our country over so many years, would permit a Bill to go through Parliament in a form which loaded the dice against us and our beneficiaries.

Yours faithfully,
DESMOND PITCHER,
Group Chief Executive,
The Littlewoods Organisation,
100 Old Hall Street, Liverpool,
December 11.

Baton charge

From Ms Christine Halek

Sir, Women are making even more of an impact on the rostrum than your correspondent reports (letter, December 8). On the night mentioned by Miss Marriott, December 3, the conductor at St John's Smith Square was also a woman. Three women conductors at three major London venues in one night — can this have ever happened before?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE HALEK,
St George's Hospital Medical School,
Jenner Wing,
Cranmer Terrace, SW17,
December 8.

Olympic city

From Mrs Angela Prior

Sir, Soon it may not be necessary for *The Times* to publish a map showing the whereabouts of Manchester (letters, December 8 and 10). Britain's successful Olympic bid for 2000 will well and truly put Manchester on the map.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA PRIOR,
Roofree,
40 Arthor Road,
Hale, Cheshire,
December 10.

Europe des patries

From Mr P. M. M. Windsor-Aubrey

Sir, Some decades ago the European Heaven was defined as a place where the police were British, the cooks were French, the engineers were Swiss, and the lovers were Italian; it was organised by the Germans. In the European Hell, organised by the Italians, the police were German, the cooks were British, the engineers were French and the lovers were Swiss.

Could we please update this concept to embrace the current and soon-to-be-expanded Community?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP WINDSOR-AUBREY,
Mill House, Abbots Worthing,
Winchester, Hampshire.

SIR ROBERT SHONE

erection of a special tribune reserved for descendants of the martyrs. Among those conducted to this tribune were the Dukes of Norfolk and his mother the Duchess, Lady FitzAlan, Captain Fitzalan-Howard, and Lady Anne Kerr. Special places had also been set apart for the Cardinals, Archbishops, and Bishops, the Chapter of St Peter's, and the generals of the religious Orders. After the brief of beatification had been read by Mgr Barnabé, representing the Vatican Chapter, the singing representing the "Gloria" of the newly blessed saint began, several hundred electric lamps being turned on to light the painting. Simultaneously the banner hoisted on the outer loggia was unfolded. The bells of St Peter's rang out and the large crowd left on its knees. The "Te Deum" was intoned by the Mgr Cherubini and Solemn Mass was celebrated.

Another special mark of the papal favour was the subsequent reception by the Holy Father of the deputation from the Catholic Union. Owing to the illness of the President, Lord FitzAlan, the deputation was led by the Lord of Epsom. In addition to those already mentioned, the deputation included the Earl of Idlesleigh, Lord Howard of Glossop, Lieutenant-General Sir George Macdonald, and Major-General Sir Cecil Peel.



BUSINESS 19-24

Channel tunnel opening date under threat



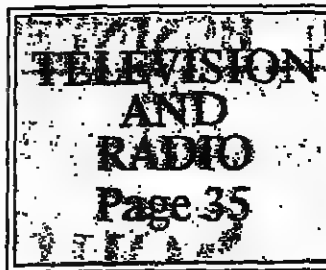
ARTS 25-27

Nose job: Robert Lindsay as Cyrano de Bergerac



EQUESTRIANISM 32

High-flying Milton tops the bill at Olympia show



TELEVISION AND RADIO
Page 35

THE TIMES 2

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16 1992

BUSINESS TODAY

BY EXAMPLE

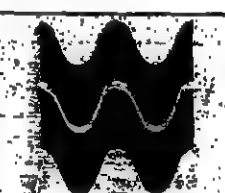


Ian McAllister, managing director of Ford UK, takes a day off each week to teach his dealers how to sell cars American-style
Page 23

LOSS CUT

Losses at YJ Lovell, the housebuilders and property group, eased from £20.3 million pre-tax to £12 million
Times, page 20

STAKE OUT



Wales Water made a £17.5 million profit from the sale of its 14.9 per cent stake in South Wales Electricity
Page 21

NO RECOVERY



Ferranti does not expect to recover anything from the £190 million ISC fraud two years ago
Page 21

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5680 (+0.0025)
German mark 2.4578 (-0.0019)
Exchange index 80.4 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2067.3 (+0.1)
FT-SE 100 2717.9 (-3.9)
New York Dow Jones 3287.87 (-4.33)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17480.74 (+190.77)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 7%
3-month interbank: 7.75%
3-month single bill: 6.75%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 3.75%
3-month Treasury bill: 3.21-3.20%
30-year bonds: 10.12-10.2

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.5680
DM £1.5670
Sfr £1.4095
FF £1.3570
Yen £1.4080
Sfr £1.4080
SDR £1.2194
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$334.70 PM \$334.90
Close \$334.50-334.60
219.80-214.10
New York: COMEX \$334.35-334.85

NORTH SEA

Brent (Jan) \$17.95/bbl (\$18.05)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.7 November (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Twin squeeze for shops and factories

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S manufacturers and retailers are facing a double squeeze in the run-up to Christmas, according to the latest evidence on the economy.

The high streets are still suffering from lack of consumer demand, in spite of lower interest rates, and manufacturers are facing higher import prices, caused by sterling's devaluation, which they are unable to pass on because there is no customer demand.

As a result, industry is still unable to start rebuilding margins and many retailers and motor traders still having to cut prices to attract buyers.

There are signs that some sectors of manufacturing are beginning to stabilise, perhaps because competitiveness has been given a substantial boost by the depreciation of sterling since September. For example, the chemical industry, a leading exporter, has started to recover to more normal levels of activity after slumping during the autumn.

Manufacturing output rose

■ A dearth of customers in Britain's high streets is combining with pressure on manufacturers who cannot pass on import price rises caused by sterling's devaluation

0.3 per cent in October compared with September, according to figures released by the Central Statistical Office. However, using the CSO's more favoured quarter-by-quarter measure, output fell 0.2 per cent in the three months to October. Industrial production, which includes the volatile energy sector, rose 1 per cent in the quarter, almost entirely due to higher oil and gas output as North Sea companies caught up on production lost during maintenance earlier this year.

While devaluation has helped industry's competitiveness, it is also bringing price pressures. The CSO reported that input prices — the prices manufacturers pay for raw materials — rose 2.4 per cent between October and November, the highest monthly rise since October 1976.

It is clear evidence of the continued weakness of demand that manufacturing

companies have not been able to pass on these additional costs to customers. Producer prices rose only 0.3 per cent between October and November. John Major hailed this as evidence that Britain had won the battle against inflation. However, the figures showed that manufacturers are caught in a pincer movement between rising import costs and weak demand and have little choice but to keep prices down.

Weak demand and continued pressure on prices was the clear message of the quarterly Distributive Trades Survey published by the Confederation of British Industry. In November, retail sales were lower than a year ago and seem to have worsened since October. In spite of government figures recently showing a small but steady rise in retail sales, retailers do not expect their Christmas business to be any better than last December.

Nigel Whitaker, chairman of the CBI distributive trades panel, held out hope that, with a wealth of bargains in the shops, there could be a burst of sales in the run-up to Christmas. Nevertheless, he said that retailers were right to be cautious.

The balance of retailers reporting increased average sales prices was similar to that in August, the lowest since the survey began in 1983, and the net proportion of firms able to increase prices over the past year was the second lowest ever. In the motor trade, average selling prices were reported to have fallen in November compared with the previous year, the first time that has happened since the survey was begun.

All three distributive trades — retail, motor and wholesale — expected the business situation to get worse, not better, over the next three months. The government publishes its official retail sales figures for November today. These are expected to show another small rise.

Comment, page 23

Franc faces renewed pressure in ERM

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE exchange-rate mechanism came under severe speculative pressure yesterday, after a single day of respite in the wake of the successful compromise at the Edinburgh summit.

The focus of selling was again the French franc, which weakened during the day in spite of repeated and obvious support from the Bundesbank. The German central bank's actions in the market were almost completely undermined by remarks by Ottmar Issing, an influential member of the Bundesbank's policy-making council.

He said that German inflationary pressures remained high and were unlikely to ease in coming months. This re-statement of the Bundesbank's position disappointed many in the financial markets,

who had been banking on a cut in German interest rates early in the new year.

In spite of the show of unity at the Edinburgh summit, there was still speculation that there would have to be a realignment of the ERM to alleviate the pressure on some of its weaker currencies. The Irish central bank cut overnight interest rates to 16 per cent from 20 per cent, a sign that speculation against the punt has eased. The punt edged a little above its ERM floor.

Sterling showed little reaction to yesterday's batch of economic statistics. In spite of a small rise in manufacturing output and industrial production and subdued factory prices, it closed the day almost unchanged from Monday's close at about DM2.4580.

IBM shakes markets with new job cuts

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

IBM, the computer giant, last night shocked the markets with a fresh round of job cuts, factory closures, and a warning over this year's profits and next year's dividend.

In Britain, where IBM employs 15,000, the head-count could fall to 13,000 by the end of next year.

Much of the shake-up — the third major restructuring in two years — will be aimed at recession-hit Europe, where IBM has operations in Britain, France, Italy and Germany.

To cover closure costs, the world's largest computer maker will take a \$6 billion charge against fourth-quarter profits, virtually guaranteeing a net loss for the year.

IBM estimates that a further 25,000 jobs will be cut worldwide from among the company's core businesses of building mainframe computers. An estimated 40,000 have already been cut this year.

Analysts say the reorganisation indicates IBM is moving away from its hardware operations and concentrating on software and computer services.

John Akers, IBM chairman and chief executive, expects unfavourable business and



Akers: dividend warning

economic conditions to continue into next year and warns that without a significant improvement in 1993 current earnings expectations make IBM unsure of its ability to maintain its dividend at current levels.

□ Ford Motor Company is set to announce up to 5,000 job cuts across Europe today, most of them in the UK. Union leaders have been called to a meeting with managers where they are likely to be told that recession-hit Ford has no option but to make the cuts. Officials believe 3,000 of the cuts will be from the UK.

Jimmy Airlie, chief Ford

negotiator for the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: "We are not expecting Ford to announce the closure of a factory — but you never know."

The dire state of the car market is revealed in an Ford document called *European Outlook*, which reveals the "continuing serious deterioration in our financial performance".

The document says: "It is necessary, therefore, to take corrective action in all areas to contain cost and bring production more in line with demand. This includes lay-offs and short-time working at many of our assembly plants." □ BP says it expects to reduce its worldwide workforce by a further 8,000 over the next three years. About 3,000 jobs will be lost by divesting subsidiaries and 5,000 will go via redundancy as yet unidentified sites in BP's downstream and corporate operations.

These jobs are in addition to the 11,500 cuts declared in August. BP Chemicals yesterday said its biolactone plant at Baglan Bay in South Wales would cease production next April with the loss of about 40 jobs.

Ford jobs fear, page 21
Wall Street, page 22
Satisfying clients, page 23

Cosy chat for listening banker

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT



NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, has admitted to Sir Peter Walters, the chairman of Midland Bank, that new Bank of England research shows banks are passing on most interest rate cuts to their business customers.

Mr Lamont met Sir Peter yesterday in the first of his informal talks with the chairman of the clearing banks. He called the meetings last month after he became concerned that banks were prolonging the recession by not giving business customers the benefit of the fall in base rates.

During the meeting, Mr Lamont referred to Bank data showing most small companies have loans linked to base rates and have received most or all of the cuts. The Treasury is expected to announce details later this week.

Sir Peter said the meeting had been friendly and constructive. "This discussion was really meant to get to the bottom of some of the problems small businesses are facing," he said.

Mr Lamont put pressure on Sir Peter to find other forms of company finance than overdrafts. "Ninety-eight per cent of our business loans are base-rate linked. So instead we discussed what more can be done for small businesses at the bottom of the recession," Sir Peter said. He also reminded Mr Lamont that Midland has pioneered regional enterprise equity injections.

Midland later said that interest margins had increased for 12 per cent of their customers since the recession began, but had reduced for 13 per cent. The bank also rejected claims that it is no longer prepared to lend. "Midland currently has the capital to finance the right proposals and is willing to do so," Sir Peter said. He also hit back at recent media attacks on the banks. "We must guard against any damage being done to the banking industry by unfounded criticism which may impair the banks' ability to help companies and the country recover from the recession," he said.

Unhappy clients, page 22

Called to account: Sir Peter Walters, Midland Bank chairman, after defending the bank's interest rate policy yesterday in a 25-minute discussion with Norman Lamont. The Chancellor plans to meet the other main high street bank chairmen this week to urge them to help small business customers survive the recession. (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

US firm to buy 28 Airbus

BY COLIN NARRBROUGH

THE European Airbus consortium, which last week suffered a severe setback when Northwest Airlines, its single biggest customer, cancelled a \$3.5 billion aircraft order, has secured \$1.5 billion of new business from America's leading aircraft leasing company.

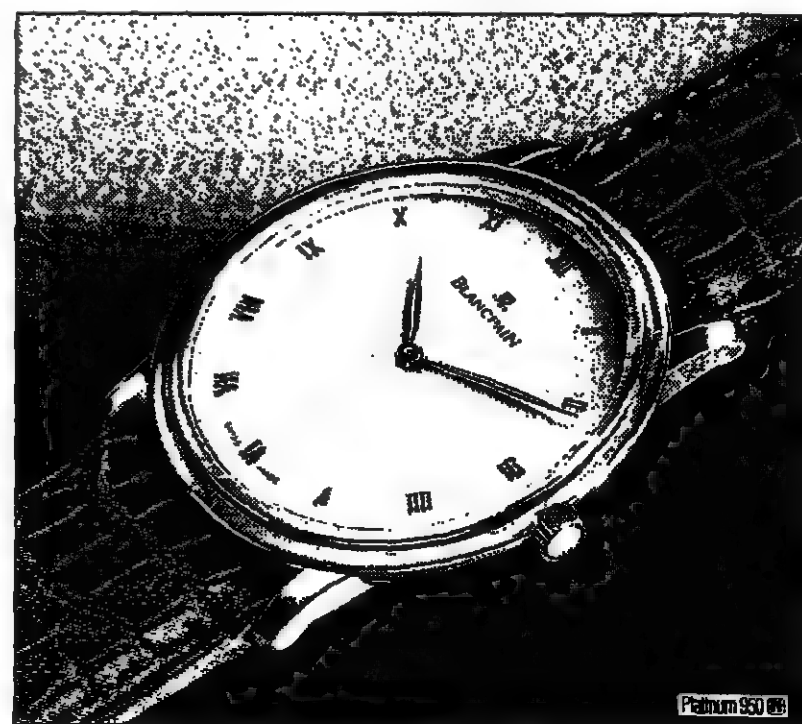
International Lease Finance Corporation (ILFC), a subsidiary of American International, yesterday placed an order for 28 Airbus along with a 53-plane order worth \$2.6 billion to Boeing, the American aircraft group, and an order for one plane from McDonnell Douglas, another American manufacturer.

Rolls-Royce, the aircraft engine maker, said it had won \$160 million worth of firm orders from ILFC, which has selected Rolls-Royce engines for one Airbus aircraft and a number of Boeing planes.

The ILFC order is for four firm and three option A300-600Rs, one firm A310-300, six firm and two option A319s. The list also includes five firm orders for A320s, nine firm and two option A321s, one firm and one option A330 and two firm A340-300s.

Delivery is scheduled to take place over five years, starting in late 1994.

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Triplex Lloyd looks to exports

Tunnies threat

Southern
Water
cons from
celerating

It returns

Stays stuck

Shouldn't

Ford jo

Tunnel talks breakdown threatens opening date

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE long-running negotiations between Eurotunnel and Transmanche Link, the consortium building the Channel tunnel, have been abandoned in acrimony, threatening the proposed opening of the tunnel in December 1993.

TML said yesterday that "with regret" it had been unable to reach agreement with Eurotunnel on payment of £1.2 billion-plus of cost overruns it had been claiming. "Negotiations are therefore at a standstill," it said.

TML said its members had gone a considerable way towards accommodating Eurotunnel's proposals — "to the

point where we have come within a short distance of reaching an equitable agreement." But there remained a gap to be bridged.

Eurotunnel shares fell 11p to 329p on the news, while the shares of some of the TML builders themselves, five of which are British, also came under pressure.

The two sides had been close to settlement, with Eurotunnel known to have offered £980 million in cash

and another £200 million or so in some form of equity, possibly convertible loan stock.

TML said the uncertainties surrounding the proposed non-cash element meant the consortium was unable to accept the proposal on behalf of the companies' respective shareholders. The consortium added: "An earlier settlement would have allowed all parties to continue together with the strong co-operative effort which is needed to complete

the project with all due speed, so as to allow revenue-earning services to commence as soon as possible."

Eurotunnel, which said it had received "with regret" the TML statement on the breakdown of talks, viewed this last paragraph as a veiled threat that the builders could choose to delay project completion.

The company said: "Eurotunnel's first priority remains the completion of the project as early as already jointly agreed possible with TML, so that it can open for revenue service in December 1993."

"Eurotunnel notes with particular regret the indication at the end of TML's statement that they may withhold co-operation, thus delaying completion."

The December date involves the phased opening of the tunnel, with only a few trains running during the first winter period. Eurotunnel itself concedes that it will require enormous goodwill on both sides and the co-operation of the builders to meet this deadline. Otherwise the full opening could be pushed into spring 1994. This will deprive it of the first trickle of revenue flow that would arrive immediately and might threaten agreements on full funding now reached with the project's bankers.

A spokesman for TML commented: "The next step is that Eurotunnel will have to come back. If it is prepared to continue with negotiations in line with what we've put forward."

The builders are claiming that the deal that was on the table this summer has effectively been withdrawn, because the cash element has been reduced to little more than £900 million and the balance has been made up of equity. The dispute is therefore over the value of that equity to the builders, who already have a stake in the project.

However, Eurotunnel says that the total sum on offer has not changed. If the two sides are unable to reach an agreement, the matter will have to continue in arbitration, pushing any eventual payment to the builders, some of whom are severely strapped for cash, back into next year.

Comment, page 23
Diary, page 23

Southern Water turns from metering

Southern Water, which supplies one of the drier parts of Britain and held one of the first general water metering trials on the Isle of Wight, has lost faith in metering as a general charging system to replace domestic rates.

William Courtney, Southern's chairman, argued that customers' main interest was in water being available when they wanted it and that cuts in usage as a result of metering might disappear when people got used to paying for the volume they used. He suggested metering was costly and savings largely theoretical.

Water usage has fallen in Southern's supply area during the recession, costing the group about £2 million in the six months to end-September. Bad debts are also increasing faster than budgeted. The group increased its charge for bad debts by £1 million and expects to raise its provisions against doubtful debts from £10 million to £15 million.

Turnover rose 10 per cent to £160 million. This included £10 million from non-regulated businesses, which contributed £4.8 million to operating profit. Pre-tax profit fell from £61.4 million to £60 million but the first half of 1991-2 included £6 million exceptional gains from realising stakes in other water companies.

The dividend rises 9.2 per cent to 7.1p from earnings of £34.4p per share. Southern shares gained 2p to 455p.

Capital spending fell from £80 million to £63 million. For the full year, spending is likely to be about £140 million, compared with an expected £180 million.

Tempos, page 20

Chief returns

Pegasus, the USM-quoted computer software group, has taken Jonathan Hubbard-Ford back as chief executive only three weeks after he left the company. The move came as Derek Moon, non-executive chairman, resigned along with three other directors. Mr Moon is replaced by Philip Sellers, non-executive chairman of the CSL Group and a director of Etam, the women's wear group.

JSH buys stake

Jardine Strategic Holdings has bought a 16 per cent stake in Cycle & Carriage of Singapore for \$212.5 million (£82.8 million) from OCBC Securities, a unit of Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation.

Alitalia deal

Alitalia, the Italian airline, has beaten competition from Germany's Lufthansa to take a 30 per cent stake in Malev, the Hungarian national carrier, under a £100 billion lire (£45 million) deal.

Welsh Water sells electricity stake

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

JOHN Elfed Jones, chairman of Welsh Water, wished his opposite number at South Wales Electricity a happy Christmas as he told him the water company had sold its 14.9 per cent stake in the utility.

Welsh Water cashed its stake for £68.7 million, net of expenses, yesterday morning. It made a profit of £17.5 million on the sale of 15.1 million South Wales Electricity shares, which it placed with several dozen institutions at a price of 460p a share.

The price was a discount on South Wales' opening share price of 481p.

Mr Jones said he still feels "very disappointed" that South Wales was unable to recognise the money-saving potential of the two utilities working together and combining administrative operations, cable laying and depots.

The water company acquired the stake in two tranches in December 1990 and June 1991, hoping it would help persuade South Wales to pool its resources with Welsh Water.

Mr Jones said: "It is the season of goodwill and I would not mind betting that we have brought a smile to the face of the South Wales Elec-

tricity chairman." He hopes the removal of a perceived threat could pave the way for future co-operation between the two. "We are still convinced that these savings were there to be got at," he said.

Wynford Evans, chairman of South Wales, welcomed the move.

He said: "We now have a wider shareholder base and are pleased that a significant number of institutional investors are involved."

Given South Wales' refusal to take part in a joint venture, Welsh Water was faced with the option of waiting for the 15 per cent limitation on shareholdings to expire in 2001, or selling the shares.

He said the shares have performed particularly well since the end of August, so Welsh Water decided to maximise the benefits for its shareholders by selling the stake.

Mr Jones estimated that Welsh Water has made a profit of £1,000 for every hour of the investment in South Wales, a rate of return of 33.5 per cent.

In addition, the funding of the shareholding has been achieved by the dividends received from South Wales Electricity.

Firms observe the benefits of community involvement

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

CORPORATE involvement in the community is holding up well, despite the prolonged recession, and companies are increasingly contributing in the form of skills and goods, according to the latest survey from Business in the Community (BITC).

The annual report of the Per Cent Club, which includes 500 leading companies in BITC, contained the findings of a boardroom review that showed corporate engagement is no longer motivated

purely by philanthropy, but that community activity is moving towards supporting business objectives.

The survey found 82 per cent of companies have a community policy. The utilities, financial services, transport and communications sectors had the greatest involvement, mostly in education and training, environment, economic regeneration and community care.

Neil Shaw, the Tate & Lyle chairman, who last night suc-

ceeded Lord Laing of Dumphall as joint chairman of the Per Cent Club, said the review, conducted by Bain & Co, the management consultants, revealed that companies with formal board-level policies for the community appear significantly more successful in this field than firms with an informal or no policy.

As to business benefits, Mr Shaw said the most commonly cited related to employee morale, demonstrating care and support as an employer, and helping staff development and recruitment.

He was addressing the Per Cent Club annual meeting at the Banqueting Hall in Whitehall, attended by The Prince of Wales, BITC president. Per Cent Club companies are committed to contributing at least 0.5 per cent of pre-tax profits, or 1 per cent of dividends, to the community.

Mr Shaw called for club membership to be widened so as not to be seen as the preserve of big London companies. He also said he wanted to consult members on the level and expression of contribution. "I'm keen to look at ways to encourage Per Cent Club members to see their activities in terms of benefit to their businesses as much as to the community," he said.



Local hero: Neil Shaw, new joint chairman of BITC

Ford jobs fear blights car makers' optimism

By ROSS TEAMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Ford Motor Company will today announce a new wave of job losses, despite optimism at Nissan and Rover about prospects for 1993. Unions fear that Ford will cut at least 3,000 more of its 35,000 United Kingdom employees. They expect job cuts to be especially heavy among the 9,700 salaried staff.

Details of the results of a series of business reviews will be presented to representatives of production workers and staff at consecutive meetings in London this morning. Unions believe that Ford may make compulsory redundancies for the first time in three decades.

Since the end of September, 2,314 Ford workers have volunteered for redundancy, narrowly enabling Brit-

ain's biggest car maker to meet its restructuring targets. The company has also introduced short-time working at its three British assembly plants for Transit vans at Southampton, Fiesta hatchbacks at Dagenham, Essex, and Escort and Orion saloons at Halewood, Merseyside.

Even though the company has kept its top spot in the UK's soggy car market, Ford's market share during the first 11 months of the year slipped from 24.2 per cent to 22.5 per cent. Many industry observers believe its problems result partly from a structural shift as the leading position of domestic manufacturers in European markets succumbs to the pressure of the single market.

Vanwall, the British number two manufacturer, has increased market share to 16.8 per cent, and Peugeot, with a plant at Coventry, and Citroën

have also made advances. Rover, third with 12.88 per cent of the market, has seen UK market share fall overall, but believes new products and efficiency gains are enhancing its ability to compete.

Rover yesterday announced plans to introduce a third shift at its large cars plant in Cowley, Oxfordshire, to cope with a planned 50 per cent increase in output next year. However, the plant employs only 3,000 people, and there will be no extra jobs as output rises from 50,000 to 75,000. Output of the company's flagship vehicle, the Rover 800, has edged up to 16,242 during the first 11 months, securing its place as leader in the executive car market.

But the big boost to Cowley will come next April, when Rover launches its new medium car. The vehicle, expected to be called the 600

series, has been developed with Honda of Japan.

Japanese manufacturers are beginning to have an impact in Britain, but their main effect will be on the balance of payments. Nissan will lift annual output at its plant in Washington, Tyne & Wear, next year by 130,000 cars as the company's new Micra small car goes on sale more widely. Already, 87 per cent of Nissan's Primera saloons and 89 per cent of Micras are exported to other European markets, increasing market share there, but also substituting for vehicles previously built in Japan.

As turnover builds up from £1 billion in 1992 to £1.5 billion next year and £2 billion thereafter, Nissan expects to leap from Britain's 14th largest exporter into the top ten.

Satisfying customers, page 23



Sitting pretty: despite the recession, Bruce Cohen reported higher profits at Courts

Property boosts Courts

By JON ASHWORTH

COURTS, the furniture group headed by Bruce Cohen, lifted pre-tax profits to £2.8 million (£2.1 million) in the six months to September 26. Turnover climbed to £84.1 million (£80.7 million).

Trading profits were flat at £2.5 million but a property gain of £311,000, compared with losses on property of £322,000 last time, left overall profits higher. Earnings per share were 4.95p (2.69p). There is an unchanged interim dividend of 1.83p a share.

The group, which spends £2.5 million a year on television advertising and recently floated a subsidiary on the Singapore stock exchange, said the depressed housing market was hurting sales in the south of England where most of its stores are located.

Turnover from overseas subsidiaries grew to £3.8 million (£3.3 million) with the largest increases in Singapore and Fiji. Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Mauritius and St Lucia also showed improvements. A decline in earnings from tourism has had an impact on operations in the Caribbean.

High street stores have been closed at Ryde, Newmarket, Bangor and Tonbridge. A new superstore is planned to open in Swindon in 1993.

Rise in electricity sales helps Southern's profits to soar

By PATRICIA TEAMAN

SOUTHERN Electric has unveiled an 11.7 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £15.3 million helped by a 3 per cent increase in electricity sales.

Turnover rose from £745.5 million to £760.6 million. Earnings per share climbed 13.5 per cent to 3.78p and shareholders will receive a half-year dividend of 5.6p, a 14.3 per cent increase.

Despite the recession, electricity sales rose 3.1 per cent. Units distributed were down 0.7 per cent compared with the comparable period last year, although Southern said that when seasonal factors were taken into account there was a 0.2 per cent overall

increase in units distributed. Duncan Ross, Southern's chairman, said the company would have shed 9 per cent of its workforce, that is 530 jobs, by the end of the year as part of its drive to cut costs.

Southern is reluctant to sign a five-year coal deal until the government has finished its review of the energy market in the new year. On Monday, Eastern signed a five-year contract with PowerGen for coal-fired power worth £100 million.

However, Mr Ross said he expected the remaining 11 regional companies to sign a heads of agreement for a five-year deal with the generators

by the end of the month. He said a five-year contract based on the volumes of coal-fired power currently under discussion would cost Southern £1.7 billion. "That is not something we would enter into lightly."

If heads of agreement were signed by the end of the month, negotiations could continue until publication of the government's white paper, he said. The regional suppliers do not need to set tariffs for the next financial year until the end of February. "There is no point in signing contracts before then unless the situation is clearer," he said.

Tempos, page 20

BRADFORD & BINGLEY (ISLE OF MAN) LIMITED NEW RATES OF INTEREST FROM 16TH DECEMBER 1992.

Account	Annual % P.A.	Monthly % P.A.
MAXIMISER OFFSHORE		
ACCESS		
£1,000 - £9,999	5.45	-
£10,000 - £24,999	5.65	-
£25,000 - £49,999	6.85	-
£50,000 plus	7.10	-
MAXIMISER OFFSHORE		
180		
£5,000 - £9,999	6.60	6.10
£10,000 - £24,999	7.10	6.60
£25,000 - £49,999	7.60	7.10
£50,000 plus	7.85	7.45
MAXIMISER OFFSHORE		
ACCUMULATOR* £5,000 plus	7.75	-
MAXIMISER OFFSHORE		
BOND		
£5,000 - £24,999	7.60	7.30
£25,000 - £49,999	7.85	7.55
£50,000 plus	8.10	7.80
Accounts below minimum balance 1.00%		



BRADFORD & BINGLEY
(ISLE OF MAN) LIMITED

REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 30 RIDGEWAY STREET, DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.
TELEPHONE: 0624 661858/662883. FAX: 0624 661862.
Registered in the Isle of Man No. 052221C. With share capital and reserves of £5,000,000. Registered with the Isle of Man Financial Supervision Commission for Banking Business. All interest rates are gross. Interest rates are variable. Mortgage Offerance Accounts are exclusively available to UK residents. *Includes 1.00% P.A. bonus.
Under Isle of Man legislation, deposits made with an Isle of Man office of Bradford & Bingley (Isle of Man) Limited are covered by the Depositors Compensation Scheme contained in the Banking Business (Compensation of Depositors) Regulations 1991 (as amended). It should be noted that deposits made with offices of Bradford & Bingley (Isle of Man) Limited in the Isle of Man are not covered by the Depositors Compensation Scheme under the Banking Act 1987 in the UK. However, in accordance with the provisions of the Building Societies Act 1986, Bradford & Bingley Building Society is under an obligation to discharge the liabilities of Bradford & Bingley (Isle of Man) Limited (as one of its subsidiaries) in so far as the latter is unable to do so.

More small businesses unhappy with banks

By Derek Harris

NEARLY a quarter of small businesses say that relations with their banks have deteriorated this year, compared with 10 per cent last year.

Kingston University's small business research centre carried out the research as part of an investigation of small businesses by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

Barclays Bank, the only high street bank among the ESRC programme sponsors, agreed that "banks should look more closely" at how small businesses achieve growth so as "ultimately to make better lending decisions".

It backed another suggestion that banks could be more pro-active in providing better "marriage bureau" services with money to invest and equity-hungry small businesses.

Barclays, which claims its lending to small businesses has remained consistent at £1.3 billion for the past three years, also backed up research findings that banks should not be pressurised into withdrawing from the small business market.

However, Barclays is to concentrate its lending on the better run small business prospect, David Lavarack, head of the bank's small business services, warned. He said: "The research clearly shows that those businesses which undertake strategic planning, good financial control and better marketing are those which stand a greater chance of survival and growth. It is these types of businesses which will become the focus of our lending activity."

A LATE flurry of speculative buying sent shares of Hillsdown Holdings, the food to furniture group, climbing 10p to 122p during the last half hour of trading as 3.5 million changed hands.

Dealers said the spree was signalled by a big buyer of Hillsdown in the traded options market, fuelling talk that the company might soon find itself on the receiving end of a bid. The buyer is believed to have bought 500 contracts in the June 110p series, equivalent to 500,000 shares in the cash market. This forced at least one market-maker to start covering a short position.

Talk in after-hours trading suggested the group was about to make an announcement about a big disposal. Pre-tax profits in the current year are expected to show a further deterioration, down from £186 million to £170 million.

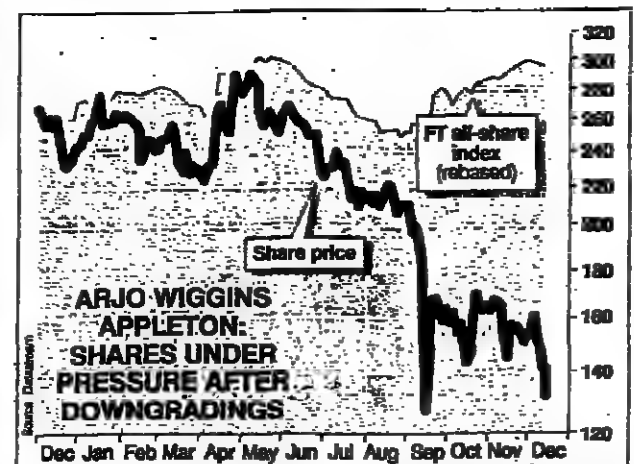
The rest of the equity market spent another lacklustre session, with prices fluctuating in narrow limits throughout the day after failing to find a lead from the financial future.

The latest batch of economic indicators failed to make an impression and an opening fall on Wall Street left the FTSE 100 index down 3.9, at 2,717.9. Turnover remained on the low side with only 549 million shares traded.

Among leaders, Tate & Lyle rose 5 1/2p to 397 1/2p on news that the company, the US soft drinks group, had renewed its contract for the supply of high-fructose corn syrup. But Cadbury Schweppes fell 1 1/2p to 45 1/2p after UBS Phillips & Drew was thought to have turned seller.

A profit downgrading by

Hillsdown shares climb in late buying spree



ARJO WIGGINS APPLETON: SHARES UNDER PRESSURE AFTER DOWNGRADING

Nomura left English China Clay 15p off at 400p. Rothmans International B dropped 10p to 625p when BZW turned cautious.

There was little respite for Arjo Wiggins Appleton, down 9p to 132p, with the profit downgrading continuing. This time it is thought that Cazenove and Warburg Securities had lowered their estimates.

United Biscuits fell 4p to 334p as Credit Lyonnais Laing, the stockbroker, turned seller and downgraded its pre-tax profit forecast for the current year by £6 million to £165 million and for 1993 by £14.5 million to £190 million. Laing said that UBS's markets had been downgraded substantially and possibly permanently.

mates. Last week, Phillips & Drew, the group's joint broker, cut its forecast for the third time this year. Bid talk boosted Hammerson A 23p to 277p, with 1.1 million shares traded. Speculators claim Hanson wants to make a bid for the property developer after talks aimed at rescuing Canary Wharf were abandoned. But Hammerson is a thin market

and it looks as though at least one market-maker is unable to cover a short position.

Eurotunnel was an early casualty but closed above its worst, with a fall of 11p to 329p after reaching 323p. The rest of the water companies attracted renewed support after shuffling off the ill-effects of Monday's long list of ex-dividends. Anglian rose 7p to 480p, Northumbrian 9p to 559p, Northern West 4p to 475p, Severn Trent 4p to 455p, Southern 5p to 456p, South West 5p to 491p, Wessex 9p to 576p and Yorkshire 7p to 517p.

Wace, the printer, fell 23p to 54p after issuing a profits warning. The group said trading conditions had not improved since interim figures were published and expected trading profits in the second half to fall below those of the first six months. As a result, figures for the full year were expected to be significantly below those of 1991.

Glaxo fell 19p to 79 1/2p and SmithKline Beecham A 6p to 504p on worries about the

effects of increased competition on Zantac and Tagamet, their respective anti-ulcer drugs. Astra, the Swedish group, said sales of Losec, its anti-ulcer treatment, grew to more than \$1 billion in 1992. The news emerged after a meeting with analysts.

Intersec firmed 3p to 173p. The healthcare group has been awarded a major contract that is expected to add £700,000 to turnover.

South Wales Electricity fell 6p to 475p on learning that Welsh Water had disposed of its entire 14.9 per cent holding. The 15.1 million shares were placed jointly by Cazenove and County NatWest with various institutions at 460p a share.

The sale raised £68.7 million and gave Welsh Water £174 million profit. Welsh Water ended 17p higher at 530p. The rest of the water companies attracted renewed support after shuffling off the ill-effects of Monday's long list of ex-dividends. Anglian rose 7p to 480p, Northumbrian 9p to 559p, Northern West 4p to 475p, Severn Trent 4p to 455p, Southern 5p to 456p, South West 5p to 491p, Wessex 9p to 576p and Yorkshire 7p to 517p.

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IBM losses mar early trading in New York

New York — Blue chips were slightly lower in early trading as losses in IBM weighed on the index, traders said. More than 1.5 million shares of IBM, off three at 59 1/2, exchanged hands in the first 15 minutes after several announcements by the company, including its decision to cut up to 25,000 jobs in 1993.

The Dow Jones industrial average was off 3.52 points to 3,288.68 while in the broad market, declining shares were in front of advancing issues six to five.

□ Tokyo — Shares staged a late rebound to close up but off the afternoon highs. Buying on technical grounds and by pension funds as well as revived rumours of an impending discount rate cut helped to lift prices. The Nikkei average was up 190.77 points to 17,480.74.

□ Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index ended up 48.08 points, at 5,315.81. A broker from Baring Securities said comments by President-elect Clinton that China might keep its most favoured nation trading status with America if it made progress on human rights had boosted the market.

□ Singapore — Share prices closed easier in a mixed, cautious market. The Straits Times Industrial Index fell 12 points to 1,442.10 on volume of 72.59 million shares.

□ Sydney — The all ordinary index saw-sawed throughout the day, ending 2.9 points lower at 1,509.6. □ Frankfurt — Shares staged a modest turnaround after five straight days of losses. The Dax index ended up 11.49 points, at 1,481.24. (Reuters)

MICHAEL CLARK

WALL STREET

	Dec 15 midday	Dec 14 close		Dec 15 midday	Dec 14 close		Dec 15 midday	Dec 14 close		Dec 15 midday	Dec 14 close
AMP Inc	39	36	Drummond Corp	33	31	Omaha Systems	30	27	USAC	30	27
Amalgamated	39	36	Eastman Kodak	33	31	Omaha Systems	30	27	USAC	30	27
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COMMENT

Tunnel lights go dim again

Christmas would hardly be complete without another outbreak of hostilities between Eurotunnel and TML, the consortium of contractors which is building the tunnel. Few were surprised therefore that long-running negotiations to settle matters have broken down, or to be more precise, were broken off by TML. The two parties were apparently close to a deal. Now the prospects for seasonal goodwill and an outbreak of peace look poor. For time presses. The closer the project comes to completion, the less leverage the builders will have. If TML is to make a successful force play, then it must do so soon.

TML's bargaining strength is already much weakened by the decision of the lending banks late last month to continue to allow Eurotunnel to draw on the funds already raised to complete the project. Though Eurotunnel was in breach of its banking agreements the waiver which allows access to cash means a green light to proceed until early 1994.

TML's main weapon is delay. The sword is slightly two edged for no contractor wishes to be seen by existing or potential customers as doing anything which could even remotely be described as harmful to the project on which it is engaged. Even the prospect of delay is not so potent as it once was. The most damaging delay for Eurotunnel was that which shifted opening day from mid 1993 to the autumn. This entailed the loss of peak holiday season revenues. Deferring the current opening date of December next year to the spring of 1994 will involve far less serious revenue losses.

The bankers, who must be sick and tired of the endless bickering between Eurotunnel and TML, could in theory withdraw their waiver if they deem that circumstances have changed materially. They are not likely to do so unless TML's withdrawal from negotiations leads to serious delays.

Shareholders in TML's member companies may start to become fractious before long. Eurotunnel has already reduced the amount of cash it is offering to settle outstanding disputes and made a corresponding increase in the equity or near equity which makes up the proposed settlement package. Several TML companies, especially among the British members, are sorely stretched financially. The last thing their shareholders want is continued failure to agree followed by lengthy arbitration.

Same old song

The Government seems to be reverting to its old emphasis on the need to drive down inflation rather than ignite recovery. Yesterday's batch of statistics clearly showed that even allowing for the lags involved in converting raw materials to finished goods, manufacturers are not yet passing on the rising cost of imported raw materials to their customers. That is good news on the inflation front but it also provides evidence that demand for manufactured goods remains pitifully low. John Major chose to seize on factory gate prices as further proof that Britain has won the battle against inflation. Understandably, he played down the latest CBI survey showing that retailers, wholesalers and motor traders are still gripped with pessimism even as the all-important Christmas shopping season draws to a close.

Why did John Major spend most of parliamentary questions yesterday hailing Britain's low inflation and not a slight upturn in manufacturing output in October? If the Government has really shaken off its obsession with inflation that surely was the best piece of economic news yesterday. Any sign, however slim, that manufacturing is beginning to see some benefit from sterling's sharp depreciation since September is the real light at the end of the tunnel.

The UK's biggest car producer believes that pleasing its clients is more important than mere sales figures, writes John Lawless

The next time you buy a Ford that does not give you the expected pleasure, the salesman may just pour petrol over the offending vehicle, produce a box of matches and ask "Will you, or shall I?"

Given the slump in UK car sales, last week's 4.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent price rises and today's expected announcement of a wave of job losses, Ford UK is facing the most challenging new year of its 82 years in Britain. Even so, Ian McAllister, managing director, has told his 400 dealers: "My number one priority is not more sales, it is customer satisfaction." And, having taken charge of the British operations 15 months ago, after two years as general marketing manager at Ford's Lincoln-Mercury division in America, he is now importing American customer-care techniques to do battle in Europe.

Last month, he took 35 of Britain's top car dealers to Palm Springs. They met Bob Tascia, whose 2,500-plus sales a year in the small town of Seekonk, near Boston, puts him among the top ten Lincoln-Mercury dealers in America, among 30 other American dealers. Mr Tascia repeated the firebrand sales pledge he gives every customer: "You will be satisfied. If you are not happy with your car, I'll fix it. Or I'll buy it back. Or both of us will burn it."

Ian McAllister said: "American dealers are far more attuned to retailing. There is absolute dedication to customer satisfaction. It is almost a religious fervour."

He has preached the gospel to more than 100 British dealers during the past year. "I take a day off most weeks to drive around to see three or four of them," he said.

The trip to Palm Springs could have been seen as teaching grand-mother to suck eggs. Large profits generated by Britain's dealers have regularly propped up Ford of America in the past two decades. But the dealers — who are used to junkies with which the world's auto-industry launches a new model, or says thank-you to the best-selling salesman and their wives — each paid £3,500 in air fares and hotel bills. Losses last year were £395 million.

American salesmen have to go through a detailed routine that is now followed by their British counterparts. Customers must be approached within two minutes of entering the showroom, but must never be pushed into making a decision. No American salesman would dream of not offering a test drive (whereas less than 70 per cent of British motorists get such an invite). And when the American customer comes to pick up the car, the salesman's bonus depends on his going through a detailed checklist



Spreading the word: Ian McAllister, centre, Ford UK managing director, sees three or four dealers a week.

that includes everything from inspecting asstays to introducing him to the parts and service managers.

Ford UK has for several years used a customer satisfaction performance (CSP) index, derived from 250,000 questionnaires a year completed by new car buyers, to rate dealerships. From January, Mr McAllister is demanding that dealers use such analysis to judge their 3,000 salesmen. "It is not to threaten the salesman," Mr McAllister said. "We are not in the business of shooting people. The idea is to say 'Hey, Joe, you are not doing so-and-so'."

Paul Hancock, managing director of the Trimco dealership in Luton, visited by Mr McAllister last week, agreed: "In America, a salesman is a great status job. In Britain, it is quite the reverse. People here still tend to think of a salesman as a spotty young man with no experience. When the average buying public comes across someone who does not fit that perception, they are surprised."

"In 1988 and 1989," he added, "customers were coming in in droves saying 'please can I buy a car?'. Those customers were too often looked on by salesmen as a bonus production line, worth up to £100 a time, depending on whether there was a part-exchange and what extras might be sold. "A good guy could have sold 300 units in 1989, just in

retail sales," Mr Hancock added. "Today, it is likely to be half that."

Mr McAllister insists that the selling of a replacement car begins the moment the customer drives away. "We require a follow-up call in two or five days. Another after four to six weeks, to fix an appointment for their first service. And they get another after six months, asking whether they were happy."

But the long-sell technique stretches well beyond that. Trimco has booked a telephone call to Helen McLaughlin, a Luton hairdresser, for October 13, 1994 — six weeks before the second anniversary of the day she traded in her Metro for a special edition Escort. She is one of the third to a half of Ford UK's customers who, in the past two years, have opted to finance their purchase via its Options scheme, another import from America. Financial specialists from Detroit visit British dealers every three months to remain salesmen.

Options, copied by other British manufacturers, gives customers the chance to upgrade the car they are driving, without increasing the size of their monthly HP repayments. It is used mostly by younger car buyers in Britain, but by 80 per cent of motorists in the America.

Crucially, though, manufacturers

also guarantee a minimum trade-in value for the car in either two or three years' time. That helps the customers to a degree. "Every person we deal with now, we are going to see again down the line," said Darren Tupper, Trimco business manager, as he flipped through the two-year "good manners" diary inscribed with detailed comments on every customer.

A database at Ford's headquarters at Warley, Essex, lists every car sale in Britain during the past six years, regardless of manufacturer. Ford can predict when a car owner is likely to want to change his vehicle (previously every 2.4 years, but now longer). This information goes out to dealers. "It does not feed them hot prospects," Mr McAllister said, "but nicely warm leads. Generally, customers are very sceptical about people in the motor trade. But follow-ups build a relationship. We have people who have bought on a 16th follow-up call."

Mr McAllister has also set up a satellite television channel exclusively for Ford dealers, again copied from Ford and Chrysler in America. Having ensured that rival manufacturers cannot tune in, senior managers are able to hold detailed discussions with dealers about the next three months' marketing plans. "Question and answer sessions are very lively," Mr Hancock said; and Mr McAllister added: "I am trying to

move to a situation where dealers order cars they want, instead of stocking up with vehicles that age, and cost extra money to move."

Getting out of touch has cost Ford several hundred million pounds over the past two years. Ford UK management failed to spot the 1991 slump hurtling towards it. It was forced to spend a fifth of its revenues on marketing discounts to dealers to shift thousands of cars at almost any price. Now, Ford's top American managers are blaming over-optimistic forecasting by continental European dealers for an increase in production in the first six months of this year. That, they say, caused cutbacks and has brought Ford to the point of making its first compulsory redundancies in Britain.

Ford UK had become Britain's third-largest exporter, after British Aerospace and ICI, with 1991 foreign sales worth £2,782 million. Dagenham exports 55 per cent of its Fiestas. Halewood had overcome huge fears about the quality of British-built to the point where one in five of its Escorts and Orions are now sold abroad. "We had hardly any [production] down days in the first half of the year," Mr McAllister said. "In the middle of the year, Germany increased interest rates, Italy halved its incoming order rate [for cars] and Spain did the same. It is Europe that has affected our British plants."

But the most fundamental change in the British market has been hidden by the dramatic swing in demand from 2.3 million cars sold in 1989 to a little more than 1.5 million this year. "We are now in a mature marketplace," Mr McAllister said. "The density of cars per household means that we are not going to get great surges in demand again."

"New car sales will be determined by the scrapage rate. But we are not going to chase market share at any cost. If that means I get any embarrassing questions about why our share is down, I will answer them. The way to gain share is to get owner-loyalty. Being market leader carries the risk of being the one to lose, particularly with the Japanese coming into my back garden [Honda and Nissan open UK factories in 1993]. But we will do it by building better cars. That means more sophistication and clever engineering. The Japanese have higher design costs, but manufacturing costs have been lower."

Mr McAllister's big test is less than four months away. Late spring, will see the launch of the Mondeo, replacement for the Sierra. Ford's big seller in the fleet market. It cannot afford a damp-squib launch that the Escort suffered in 1990 (requiring a relaunch last September). Secret consumer trials, Mr McAllister said, suggest that it will be seen as a tremendous value-for-money, but not cheap vehicle. "We are not going to be shy about pricing it right," he said.

Mondeo's launch, Mr McAllister insists, will reveal a car blessed with every ounce of Ford's design, technological, safety and engineering muscle. "If we have to change the specifications within the first year," he conceded, "we have failed."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Vulture over The Vulture

FORGET the festive turkey, what about The Vulture? The next week will see the last Christmas lunches served in the private dining rooms of The Georgian Vulture, the City's favourite and oldest chop house, which itself is facing the chop. The George was founded as an ale house in 1170, and amalgamated with The Lively Vulture, a nearby inn, shortly after the great fire. It is now about to make its third big adjustment to the passing centuries, as the dining rooms make way for a wine bar. The ghosts of the real Dick Whittington and the fictional Mr Pickwick, who both famously dined at The George, will have to find new lodgings, as will the City Pickwick Club. The club is one of the most eminent in the City — it consists entirely of former Lord Mayors, sheriffs and aldermen. They will probably be able to find someone to fit them in somewhere.

Change of image

THINGS are changing at that traditionally male preserve, Ede & Ravenscroft, the court and robe outfitters in Chancery Lane. It has started selling maternity wear. Madeleine Hamilton, 28, a former corporate finance specialist at Frere Cholmeley, the City solicitor, who has turned designer, has produced a variety of tailored shirts for pregnant lawyers, she says. She sells them alongside a range of feminine City shirts



and trades under the name of *Res Ipsa Loquitur* — "The thing speaks for itself" in lawyers' parlance.

Welcome guests

CANNON Street Investments, the mini-conglomerate, was one of the more unlikely beneficiaries of royal press coverage last week. Although its share price, once 400p, is at rock bottom, at 54p, it still owns the luxurious Craigendarroch hotel in Deeside, close to where the Princess Royal was married on Saturday. The hotel, best known for its pool where the Princess of Wales often takes a dip, was all but taken over by journalists, resulting in near record occupancy rates. Eric Brown, general manager, was even forced to open some of the 93 de luxe time-share lodges — normal peak rate £2,500 a week. Cannon installed Brown in October, after he sold his own successful Balhorne House hotel in Fife, and is backing him to update it for the 1990s. The "substan-

tial six-figure sum" the press brought in may not revive Cannon's fortunes, but could help assure Craigendarroch's future. "Winter profitability in Scotland is never easy and this was a welcome bonus. The press can come back any time," Brown says.

Shining light

IF THERE was anything calculated to make the battered British building industry weep as Christmas nears, it was the glad tidings the Cologne-based Strabag has sent out in its staff magazine in this third week of advent. While all around are gloomy at the prospect of economic winter stalking Germany, the construction group results were enough to light up the heavens. Group output, the Strabag workforce, was told, will this year easily exceed last year's DM4.5 billion, with key divisions having achieved growth rates in excess of 30 per cent in the first nine months. With much of the increase in the company's building profits coming from the East, there is almost a biblical quality to this seasonal tale.

Boardroom antics

A CORPORATE headquarters with stylish boardroom, and a sunny outlook in Clacton, Essex, goes on sale next month. Any reasonable offer will be considered by the vendor, the Woolwich Building Society. The building, close to local amenities and deserving an interior inspection, was architect-designed for Town & Country, taken over by the Woolwich in May, and pro-

vides one of what is now an embarrassment of boardrooms for the third-largest society. It currently has four, and wants to slim down to two. Premises inherited from the Propertyowners Building Society in Cavendish Place, central London, are also to be disposed of. The boardroom in the society's own headquarters and the T&C's old headquarters in The Strand will be kept.

After the peace...

MORE misses from the season of good cheer: TML, the consortium now completing the Channel tunnel for Eurotunnel, sent a Christmas card to its client with the message: "Wishing you a world of peace". Shortly afterwards, the consortium announced that long-running negotiations with the client had broken down, and the two are now at daggers drawn again.

MEANWHILE Eurotunnel, continuing its admirable practice of adopting a non-festive theme for its Christmas card, has sponsored a competition for young graphic designers in Kent under the banner "Britain's closer links with continental Europe" and has used one of the winning entries. The result, a stylised map of Europe, places Spain directly south of England, Italy to Spain's south west, and France to the south east, with Polkstone, therefore, cut off from Calais by the whole of Spain. Which might explain at least some of the delays the Channel tunnel has suffered.

DEBRA ISAAC

Insurers should find solution to losses from terrorism

From Mr John Oscrift
Sir, For some years now I have read with some disdain how British industry has been looking to the government to solve its problems.

I was, therefore, very disappointed to read that the insurance business, from which I recently retired, is now on the same tack over terrorism losses.

This is not the stuff of which the London market was made and which, rightly, earned it such a leading position in the

insurance world. Surely, it is not beyond the wit of all the insurance brains in London to resolve the situation?

One could envisage a pooling arrangement at the lower levels coupled with some form of excess loss reinsurance at the higher levels; this could be on an aggregate or per risk basis.

Once the basic format was decided, it should be possible to bring in the financial reinsurance market to provide additional capacity.

Post Office could deliver newspapers

From Mr Chris Philip
Sir, Mr Gardner's submissions to the Monopolies and Merger Commission (Letters, December 9) regarding the newspaper distribution cartel does not, I am afraid, help those of us who cannot easily obtain papers.

There are thousands of people who live in the country and who are retired or work at home and therefore do not or cannot get to a newspaper shop every day. Also, because of the distances involved a paper-boy round would be uneconomic.

However, such people are visited nearly every day by the postman.

Why therefore are newspaper publishers so reluctant to make an arrangement with the Post Office to enable potential readers in rural areas to obtain newspapers? Yours faithfully, CHRIS PHILIP, Lakeside, Gaines Road, Whitbourne, Worcestershire.

Jobs swap

From Mr M. J. Dawson
Sir, Sir James McKinnon seems notably successful in forcing British Gas to cut prices to private and industrial customers alike. Professor Stephen Littlechild, when asked about the enormous increase in electricity charges to ICI's Runcom works, threatening many jobs, said that before, they bought it very cheaply.

How about Sir James McKinnon and Professor Stephen Littlechild changing jobs?

Yours faithfully, M. J. DAWSON, 16 Rookery Avenue, Grimsby, South Humberside.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

Amstrad needs confidence

From Mr Edward F. Northcote
Sir, It almost passes belief that the executive directors of Amstrad, whose credibility has been shattered in recent weeks, culminating with the shareholders voting 3-2 against their recommendation, are apparently intending to continue in office.

The charge sheet is long, and starts with clear "economy with the truth" as they were said (in the Annual Report) to have thought it "essential to concentrate on and maintain liquidity" and then proceeded to recommend the scheme to shareholders which entailed taking £100 millions out of the business. Has it previously happened that a board who have so dramatically lost the confidence of shareholders have sought to carry on as though nothing had happened?

Amstrad needs more than two non-executive directors, and one other executive besides Mr Sugar, who should do all the troublesome jobs he does not like doing and leave him free to concentrate on the product development and sell-

ing which he can do superbly well. Shareholders want signs of confidence, and they want them not only for themselves but also for the staff and customers.

Yours faithfully, EDWARD NORTHCOTE, 38 Westmore Court, Carlton Drive, SW15.

Too much Sugar

From Ms Janice Wardell
Sir, I do not count myself as one of your more avid readers, but on my daily trudge through your pages to reach the Arts Section, there are some items which inevitably catch my eye. I am sure no one can have failed to notice the seemingly endless photographs of Mr Alan Sugar in the past few weeks — hardly a day goes by without one.

I am in no doubt that he is a worthy man, but surely we know what he looks like by now.

Is there to be no respite, or has he some devoted fan amongst your staff? Yours faithfully, JANICE WARDELL, 26 Stanchever Way, Curry River, Langport, Somerset.

THE TIMES

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No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Zambia Copper	Mining	
2	Wainwright	Paper Print	
3	Wainwright	Newspaper Pub	
4	First Leisure	Leisure	
5	Wainwright	Mining	
6	Mendes (Jah)	Drugs-Sex	
7	Wainwright	Drugs-Sex	
8	Northern Elec	Electricity	
9	Wainwright	Electricity	
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Please take into account any minus signs

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Small losses

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 14. Dealings end December 31. Settlement day January 1. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices reported are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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1992



ROCK page 26
Sonic Youth, role
models for the current
wave of 'grunge' bands,
play Brixton Academy

ARTS

MUSIC page 27
Jack Gibbons is
recreating the piano
improvisations of
George Gershwin



The power behind the scenes

THEATRE: Andy Lavender talks to Bob Crowley, designer of a new RSC Hamlet which opens at the Barbican on Friday

Think of *Hamlet* and the obvious names spring to mind: Garrick, Irving, Olivier, more recently Derek Jacobi, Daniel Day-Lewis and now Kenneth Branagh in Adrian Noble's Royal Shakespeare Company production. You might also think of directors from Stanislavsky to Zeffirelli, who have engaged to various degrees with the play. You are unlikely to think of theatre designers.

When the curtain goes up on the RSC's *Hamlet*, however, it will reveal the settings of Bob Crowley, one of the most eminent designers in British theatre. Crowley has tackled Shakespeare in the past, designing most recently *Henry IV* Parts 1 and 2 for the RSC, and the renowned National Theatre production of *Richard III*, which was given over to the 1930s English military machine. He is one of the few designers who seems comfortable with London's major stages, perhaps because he refrains from simply filling them with sets.

"Narration is what television seems to supply into our lives, be it for good or bad," he says. "Theatre is different. I like to go to the theatre to see something that I don't see elsewhere."

This has led him towards a form of visual poetry, conscious of the emotional reverberations of shape and colour. Crowley's designs can be quite beautiful to look at, but he insists that "everything has a reason" and responds directly to the text. He proved that his style could elevate contemporary plays when he designed David Hare's state of Establishment England dramas, *Racing Demon* and *Murmuring Judges*, for the National Theatre. The latter, to my mind, was the best use of the demanding Olivier stage that I have seen. He has been especially busy of late, working on *Carousel* (which opened last week at the National) and now *Hamlet*.

It has long been recognised that designers are not merely draughtsmen. But talking to Crowley one realises how decisive their contribution can be. *Hamlet*, he admits, is a challenge of some size. The designer must wrestle with a concept both

funereal and festive, and give shape to a play which seems concerned more with psychology and power than with place. To complicate matters, it comes laden with the baggage that generally accompanies Shakespeare's best-known plays. How to jettison this?

"It's really hard," Crowley muses. He is calm and engaging, with a slight lift of irony in his voice. "What you don't do is strive to be original, because it seems to me, that way madness lies."

Crowley's unoriginal approach, then, is to see *Hamlet* "almost like a symphony in three movements". He elaborates: "There is the grieving for the death of the father, and the first turning point is where

Hamlet meets his father's ghost. The second is the arrival of the players. He seems to be completely dispirited up to then. The very act of theatre animates him: the play scene itself is extended into a much larger metaphor, so I've created a theatre within a theatre, which then stays with us through the scene with the mother in her bedroom. Then Claudius decides to clean the slate of Hamlet's act, and what you are left with after Hamlet's return from England is a landscape of grief. By the end the whole stage is a huge graveyard, not literally with tombstones, but just dead flowers everywhere."

Colour plays a key role in Crowley's aesthetic. "It is the most emotive element one has at one's disposal," he observes. "I'm actually using colour in *Hamlet* quite vividly, because the play is usually all black. Ophelia, for instance, wears liquid blues and greens, linked to her love of nature and the fact that she drowns. But you have to rein in the use of colour. With Shakespeare the colour is in the language a lot of the time."

This returns us to the more traditional notion that the play hinges on the actor's interpretation of the playwright's verse. *Hamlet* has nevertheless drawn notable work this century from other theatre artists. The influential designer Edward Gordon Craig staged a production in 1912 for Stanislavsky's Moscow Arts Theatre,



One of the most eminent designers in British theatre: Crowley photographed on his *Hamlet* set

whose sets were entirely composed of large white screens. Despite various damning reports, in the words of one critic Craig was able "to evoke almost any sensation of time or space, the scenes even in themselves suggesting variations of human emotion".

It has fallen to film to exploit other variations. Laurence Olivier's 1948 production bolts a cinematic melodrama — swirling mists and Walton's swirling music — to the clipped theatricality of the starring central performance.

Certainly some of the solutions to the play's challenges have been found in the actor rather than the setting. I still remember the pained face of Richard Eyre's production at the Royal Court more than a

decade ago, in which Jonathan Pryce as Hamlet also played the ghost, his voice seemingly issuing as some pain-drenched croak from Hamlet's stomach. When Eyre directed the play again a couple of years ago at the National Theatre, John Gunter's design made Hamlet's father more concrete in the form of a huge statue, so that the shadow of the patriarch loomed large over the entire proceedings.

Arguments about interpretative licence have receded of late. There is anyway a good deal of scope with Shakespeare's plays, so ambivalent is their content, and Crowley wishes this were true of more contemporary work.

"Very few playwrights write poetically," he argues, "and a lot of

them are straitjacketed by the world their plays inhabit. I wish they'd take on a larger landscape. I can't think of a single play that I have read in the last six months that has anything to do with the transforming power of theatre."

You might expect this from a designer who refuses to be "literal", and who has made his name not merely with a visual theatre, but one which engages the mind's eye. "I'd like to think that the design concept behind *Hamlet* will open up windows," says Crowley, "that it will not complete the equation and that it is ultimately ambiguous. I hate things to be explained visually."

Hamlet is in preview at the Barbican (071-638 8891) and opens on Friday

Have a flutter to stop the rot

Anthony Everitt, secretary-general of the Arts Council, argues that profits from the lottery announced today could save crumbling theatres

The government bill proposing a national lottery to generate money for good causes is due to be published today. In the arts, it is greatly needed. The reason is simple. In 1989 Richard Widdowson concluded in his report on arts funding that what the arts needed most in the 1990s was capital for building. Arts Council funding for the arts is almost exclusively for revenue costs: helping artists and arts organisations, already run on a shoestring, make art. We spread the money thinly as it is, and there is little left over for capital needs. Yet anyone who has looked round a number of arts buildings will know in what appalling states of repair many exist. The national lottery is the first proposal which could help solve this mounting problem.

One can find examples of need everywhere. The Old Vic in Bristol is a case in point. It is a wonderful theatre, two Grade I listed 18th-century buildings, comprising the oldest working auditorium in Britain, and an earlier 18th-century building at the front of the house. These are linked by a building put up in 1972. It is one of our nation's flagship theatres and needs £5 million worth of work. The new section of the building has never had any significant maintenance. A welcome grant of £175,000 from the Theatre Restoration Trust has been secured. But more will be needed.

The theatre needs a new fire alarm system and the upgrading of fire protection equipment. The electrical wiring badly needs renewing; indeed, in the new building it was only ever partially completed. When it rains, the staff use buckets. But they can't use buckets to protect the 18th-century beams from water penetration. And the 1972 roofs are in even worse condition.

These are only simple jobs of repair. Much of the front of house for audiences was put up in 1972 and has not been changed. How many shop fronts now exist from the 1970s? Theatres have to attract audiences too.

Then there is the question of new provision. Welsh National Opera, one of our most innovative opera companies with an international reputation for excellence, has no home base. There are plans for a new opera house in Cardiff. Lottery money could help that happen,

and repeatedly since. We have long argued that one way of doing this would be to ensure that lottery money is used for one-off projects. The second warning is that good causes — arts, sport, heritage, charities — really must benefit, and be seen to benefit. The lottery White Paper earmarked a third of the lottery turnover for the good cause. Half will have to go on prizes for the lottery to succeed and 12 to 15 per cent for administration, leaving a large argument over tax. The needs of the arts world are well established. Let us hope that the lottery raises sufficient funds to satisfy them.

In addition, if the public perceive that the lottery is being used as a form of indirect taxation, they won't buy tickets. It would be a thousand pities if this brave venture did not get off to the best possible start — to work for the common good.



Everitt: "What the arts need most in the 1990s is capital for building"

Michael Wright examines the strangely fascinating phenomenon of the child actor

Talents with a long way to grow

What is it with child actors? Whether we are cooing and aching over little Johnny playing third shepherd in the school Nativity Play, hooting at the antics of Macaulay Culkin, or hiding behind the sofa during a television rerun of an early Bonnie Langford vehicle, the cute little brats exert a strange fascination.

We groan every time *The Sound of Music* comes up on telly, yet still we sit and watch the damn thing. Films like *Home Alone* continue to coin it at the box-office. And on a smaller scale at the Lloyd's Bank Theatre Challenge recently, both the Olivier and Cottesloe theatres were packed nightly for the showcase of young talent thrown up in the course of the competition.

There is nothing new in this. A scene in *Hamlet* hints at Shakespeare's impatience with the novelty troupes of child actors who were poaching custom from the "common stages" of his time — although he himself employed boys to play the women's parts in his plays. Dickens satirises Victorian child actors in *Nicholas Nickleby*, with a description of the (decidedly past-it) "Infant Phenomenon" performing with Vincent Crummles's theatre company.

And back in 1805, the 12-year-old actor William Betty became the toast of Regency England, thrilling audiences with his Romeo, wowing them with his Hamlet. Royalty courted him, and the House of Commons was specifically adjourned by William Pitt the Younger so that MPs could catch one of his performances.

So Benny Grant (13) and Ross McCall (16), presently starring alongside Maureen Lipman in Neil Simon's *Lost in Yonkers*, are following in a grand, if slightly



Neil Simon's *Lost in Yonkers*: Benny Grant (13) and Ross McCall (16) star with Maureen Lipman

dubious tradition. Lipman plays Bella, the boys' mentally-retarded aunt in the show, and is unrepentant about disregarding the oldest piece of theatrical wisdom in the book: never act with animals or with children. "It's been a learning experience. The boys are fearless; they have none of the problems grown-ups have with up-and-downs or nerves."

She is unstinting in her praise. "Benny is probably the greatest pro I've ever worked with: he's ostensibly 13, but in actual fact he's been here for several incarnations. He has a sort of European profundity, and I am actually deeply in love with him. And Ross is a real actor in the sense that he almost takes everything very casually and doesn't seem to let what he's doing get to him. But actually he's rather more sensitive than 90 per cent of the actors I've worked with."

On stage together for most of the show, the boys come across almost like a fledgling incarnation of Laurel and Hardy, with (little brother) Benny looking sleek, squat and self-assured as he pads about the stage in his plus-twins, while (big brother) Ross shambles in his wake, looking altogether more rumpless, gangly and vulnerable. It is a winning, often hilarious, combination.

Both boys are well aware of the alarming tendency of child actors to burn out and vanish. William Betty's parliament-adjourning career was almost over after just a year at the top, and he retired into complete obscurity at the age of 14. For every Judy Garland, Jodie Foster or Bonnie Langford who makes the transition into starchy adulthood, there are a dozen — Mark Lester (star of

Oliver), Dominic Guard (*The Go-Between*) or Terry Brooks (the original "Milky Bar Kid") — who don't.

Ross observes that "if you let a good part, good reviews and lots of publicity go to your head, you'll start getting put down." Benny agrees: "The thing about actors is that you don't want to 'boom' right away. It's never just a question of talent: the people who are going to make good are the ones who keep their heads screwed on."

That is the point. Child actors will ever inhabit a narrow territory between the appealingly precocious and the appallingly precious. But it is temperament as much as talent that marks the difference between slumping into the past and clambering into the future.

Lost in Yonkers continues at the Strand Theatre, Albany, WC2 (071-930 8800)

Cliff falls and Whitney rises in the great yuletide stakes

WHITNEY Houston's "I Will Always Love You" looks certain to be the Christmas No 1 in the singles chart. Ladbrokes have closed the book ever since last Friday, when one of the last bets taken was a £1,000 wager at 3-1, while William Hill are now offering unfeasibly short odds of 1/7 on. The only other song still in the frame is Michael Jackson's "Heal The World" at 4/1. Cliff Richard, erstwhile monarch of yuletide cheer, is dethroned this year. Houston's record has been No 1 for three weeks and has already sold 700,000 copies, making it the biggest selling single of 1992.

DEBORAH Warner is the latest theatre director to succumb to the lure of the opera house. The National Theatre director will make her debut on the lyric stage in Leeds with Opera North next May. But for her entry into operatic life she has picked an opera with strong associations with the "straight theatre": Alban Berg's *Wozzeck*, which is based on Georg Büchner's 1837 drama.

Two-way traffic

NATASHA Richardson is making her Broadway debut this month, starring in Eugene O'Neill's *Anna Christie*, the story of the reconciliation between a long-lost daughter and her sailor father. Richardson will be repeating her award-winning London performance in the title role — her 1990 Young Vic portrayal won her the London Theatre Critics Best Stage Actress award — but she will undoubtedly be hoping not to repeat the experience of Liv Ullmann, who starred in the play's last Broadway revival, a failure in 1977.

Another Broadway first comes in



April with the premiere of New York dramatist Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* — the first part of which was a big hit at the National Theatre recently, winning the top Evening Standard Drama Award last month. *Angels in America* is set to open on April 25 at New York's Walter Kerr Theatre, directed by George C. Wolfe. The announcement ends intense bidding for the play, which has been the most hotly fought over serious drama to reach Broadway in years. Meanwhile, the National is planning to bring back *Angels in America* in repertory in the autumn, directed by Declan Donnellan, together with his sequel, entitled *Perestroika*, which

has never been seen before in Britain.

MOST of the critics may have had their doubts, but the public are determined to make *Tales of Beatrix Potter* one of the biggest hits the Royal Ballet has had in years. Owing to what Covent Garden describes as "overwhelming popular demand", two extra matinee performances of Sir Frederick Ashton's fluffy-animals-at-play ballet, originally choreographed as a film, have been scheduled for December 31 and January 6, both at 2.30pm.

The extra performances will be staged on their own. Instead of in a double bill with *The Dream* as the other *Tales of Beatrix Potter* are. Covent Garden's famously high seat prices have been reduced accordingly — they now range from £1.50 to £31, with half-price for children.

Last chance...

THE name of Curtis Stigers, unknown in Britain at the start of 1992, is currently appearing next to "house full" signs all over the country, while his version of "What's So Funny 'Bout" Peace Love and Understanding" is the best track on the high-flying original soundtrack to Whitney Houston's film *The Bodyguard*.

Clearly an immense talent, the classically-trained singer, songwriter and saxophonist from Boise, Idaho is blessed with boy-next-door charm and a blue-eyed soul voice as big as his biceps. Marvel as he flexes the lot at Wolverhampton Civic Hall (0902 312030) tomorrow, BIC, Bournemouth (0202 297297) on Friday, and Brighton Centre (0273 202881) on Saturday.



Houston: "I Will Always Love You" sells more than 700,000

THEATRE: West End and Fringe productions reviewed by Benedict Nightingale and Jeremy Kingston

Romantic hero proves elusive

As Max Beerbohm remarked when the character hit London in 1900, and Kenneth Tynan repeated when Ralph Richardson bumbled through the part 46 years later, Cyrano is not a hero well suited to British actors. Our boys tend to compartmentalise what Rostand calls "panache". There are some, Derek Jacobi and Edward Petherbridge for instance, who it has been a lot easier to imagine composing vicarious love letters to Roxane than singlehandedly mowing down 100 ferocious brigands. There have been others, most recently the Scots actor Tom Mearns, of whom the very opposite has been true. What is wanted is a Gielgud sort of Finney or a Richard Burton kind of Ian McKellen: not a grating often found this side of the Channel.

Yet that is to forget what the latest production of Rostand's gorgeously preposterous romance have not forgotten: the existence of Robert Lindsay. He is a robust yet subtle actor, and would seem well qualified to reconcile Cyrano the sonneteer with Cyrano the soldier.

And the first sight of his nose, always a key indicator, is encouraging. As I recall, Jacobi, Petherbridge and Keith Michell sported hooters no more outfitting than the miniaturised ski-runs they resembled. On the other hand, a weird, pulsating blend of bagpipe, haggis and caber dangled from the centre of Mearns's ferocious face at this year's Edinburgh Festival. Lindsay's schnozzle is somewhere in between: an amalgam of English parrot and French loaf, with a hint of parrot's beak at the top.

But he has yet to achieve the same happy fusion in his performance as a whole. Perhaps I was

Cyrano de Bergerac
Theatre Royal,
Haymarket

wrong to prepare myself for Elijah Moshinsky's production by dipping into reviews of Coquelin, who created the role in France. Beerbohm thought him supreme in the more comic, debauched aspects; and the excellent C.E. Montague said Coquelin sped over even stiff-seeming lines with such "colour, diversity, warmth and colloquial quickness" that hearers thought Rostand's words were "what human speech in its longing for heightened expression at crises of feeling had really been groping for until now". Well, Lindsay has far to go before he finds that force, variety, dash and panache.

It is not altogether his fault. A problem with voice on opening night gave several of his lines a hoarse, staccato sound that should have sent Roxane running for her smelling salts when she heard her balcony. John Wells's translation — though brisk, speakable and sometimes eloquent — cannot disguise the sad truth that English is a less sexy language than French. And Moshinsky's production opts for clutter, making it more difficult for the man at the centre to shimmer.

The first act is a particular problem. Moshinsky creates the bustle and hum of life in the Paris theatre where it occurs, but the bustle in as cramped a space as he chooses means that the poem Cyrano improvises as he fights, a duel has become all but incomprehensible. The pressure eases as the action moves to the bakery where

his fellow Gascons gather, from there to the square where Stella Gonet's creamy, dreamy Roxane lives, and then on to the battlefield ruins amid which her beloved Christian expires. Yet I kept wondering if simpler decor than Michael Yeargan has provided, and a clearer stage, might have added to the intensity and impact.

Lindsay has his moments, all right. When the part calls for self-mockery, as it often does, he has the wry humour to answer it. There is tenderness and, at times, pain in his voice when he woos his adored Roxane in the guise of Gary Cady's big, dumb Christian. The words "I love you, I am mad, exhausted, torn to shreds" and "I would give up any happiness to make you happier, even if you never knew" are recognisably those of a man forcing himself to sacrifice his feelings for others. But Lindsay's is a half-and-half performance: half lover and half roughneck, but not quite electric enough as either, let alone both at once.

The result is a pleasant rather than a riveting evening, and one that, as a veteran viewer of Cyrano, I suspect I shall recall for an odd reason. De Guiche is the hero's foe, the Gascon's scourge, and the least wanted of Roxane's suitors, and for most of the evening Julian Glover does not make him particularly interesting. But towards the end he appears to tell the grieving Roxane of his regrets and self-contempt: "I feel uneasy in my skin". For some reason Glover's quiet confession moved me more, much more than Cyrano's characteristically self-denying death, which followed just afterwards. That means, of course, something is wrong with the production. It also means something is right.



A seeker after panache: Robert Lindsay as Rostand's hero, Cyrano. Drawing by Bill Hewison

A limbo team on top form

Pinchy Kobi and the Seven Duppies
Tricycle

Here is a cracking good show for Christmas, marvellously mad, remotely based on the story of Scrooge and acted with high-octane zest by the eight black actors of The Posse. They banded together last year to showcase talents not being fully extended in television roles: *Armed and Dangerous* earned the company Arts Council funding and will be on Channel 4 in the new year. Don't miss it, and don't miss Pinchy Kobi either.

Pinchy is mean, rich, fat and horrid to babies. He hires heavies to force the rent from his tenants and holds "Baroness Handbag" to be the greatest woman in history. Eddie Nestor gives him a balefully jutting lower lip and a truculent righteousness fully justifying someone's description of him as "a man after his own heart".

On Christmas Eve a mysterious letter directs him to the site of treasure in one of his Soho properties where, it transpires, seven duppies (souls trapped in limbo) wait to be released if only they can melt that stony heart. Pauline Randall's direction splendidly orchestrates the cast's inventive wit but never more so than when the duppies emerge, literally, from the furniture. Schiz (Victor Romero Evans) crawls from the TV set, half newscaster, half electrical circuit, and schizoid from all the programmes that have passed through him. Sylvester Williams, appropriately consumed, slides out of the Regency wallpaper. Michael Bulling from the striped armchair.

Roger Griffiths and Gary McDonald are the bickering arms of a red sofa, and later become counsel for prosecution and defence at Pinchy's trial. Brian Bovell is a statue and Robbie Gee steps from a portrait, wigged and cooed.

Gentle persuasion fails. Kendra Ulyart's set opens out still further to accommodate parodies of game shows and adventure drama, clashing with a re-run of Pinchy's farewell to his childhood sweetheart, yanking off the engagement ring so as to have something to remember her by. Only a dreadful vision of the future impels him to change, so that the duppies can depart wearing wings and halos.

Superb teamwork and sparkling individual performances show The Posse to be a top-class team.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Pioneer's stature confirmed twice over

Jamie James on striking American productions of Georg Büchner, 'the first modern playwright'

most prominent figures of the American avant-garde in the 1970s. Now they are both leading figures in the theatre establishment. Wilson is a sought-after director and eternal enfant terrible. Akalaitis has succeeded. Joseph Papp as director of the Public.

This Houston production of *Danton's Death* is uncommonly satisfying. Wilson actually seems to be interested in his text: for once, he is content to let the piece play, rather than simply using it as a backdrop for another display of his own theatrical virtuosity. The text has been heavily cut, but no

modern audience could find its way to the piece through the thicket of Büchner's historical and literary references, now mostly obscure. Which is not to say that this production does not abound in the bold, rich tableaux which are the trademark of Wilson's stagecraft. The rectangle of the stage shifts with every scene, redefining space in strange and beautiful ways.

The furnishings and stage properties are all exquisitely wrought

works of art: one of them, a bed for Marion, Danton's lover, was carved from a two-ton block of unweaned Colorado marble. Wilson donated the piece to the Alley, which auctioned it off to help finance the production.

The principal drawback is the casting of the title role. Richard Thomas is known to most Americans as John-Boy, the sensitive adolescent in the 1970s serial *The Waltons*, and has nothing of the

mordant revolutionary about him. In an interview, Wilson said he chose Thomas "because he was all wrong for the part": amusing, but sometimes wrong is just wrong.

While Robert Wilson's vision of Büchner is a spare and severely formalised universe of ideas, Akalaitis's production of *Woyzeck* creates a claustrophobic, moodily expressive world. Both visually and dramatically, it seems to have been influenced by German Expressionism, which resonates eerily with Büchner's fable about a simple-minded man, debauched by an absurd medical experiment,

who murders his slutish ex-lover. In Akalaitis's version, whey-faced people wander like zombies through a blasted cityscape. The murder scene is grisly, with great gobs of gore splattering about in a harsh light.

Jesse Borrego is excellent in the title role, rushing around like a banshee, but he manages to make the role sympathetic. Marie is played by Sheila Toussie, who takes her pose of disinterest too far: it is difficult to feel much interest in her violent death. The folk elements are heavily emphasised, sometimes incongruously: the music, by Akalaitis's ex-husband, Philip Glass, uses elements of American country music and spirituals where polkas might have been more apt.

DERWENT MAY



Jack Gibbons. Though he heard *Rhapsody in Blue* as a child, he grew up with the view that its composer was "risqué"

By George, by way of Jack

Clive Davis meets a British musician who recreates Gershwin's piano improvisations

If the concert pianist Jack Gibbons could be granted one wish, he knows exactly what he would choose to do — travel back in time to sit and listen to George Gershwin play for an evening. And rather than performing the whole of his repertoire, Gershwin would play the same piece — "Fascinating Rhythm", say — over and over, spinning new variations on the melody each time around.

Gershwin's talent for improvisation, already apparent in the years he spent as a teenager plugging other people's songs on Tin Pan Alley, later made him the toast of New York's salons. No society party was complete without him hunched over the keyboard for hours on end. Since then, amidst the revivals of stage works, attention has inevitably shifted away from his pianistic skills. Jack Gibbons's reproductions of Gershwin's ornate technique constitute one of the more unorthodox offshoots of the "authentic" music movement.

For the past three summers Gibbons has mounted successful all-Gershwin recitals at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. He has now embarked on a series of solo recordings. *The Authentic George Gershwin*, the first volume of which (released on the ASV label CDWHL-2074) covers the years 1918-1925, from the first hit "Swanee" to a version of the slow movement of the Concerto in F. The centrepiece, naturally, is *Rhapsody in Blue* adapted from the composer's own four-handed arrangement for piano and orchestra.

As he admits, Gibbons makes an unlikely Gershwin scholar. A prodigiously gifted classical pianist, he made his London recital debut at 17 with a programme of pieces by Chopin's contemporary, Alkan, whose output includes some of the most technically demanding works in the repertoire. In 1982, at the age of 20, Gibbons won first prize at the Newport International (Piano) Competition.

Though he had heard *Rhapsody in Blue* as a child, he had grown up with the traditionalist view that its composer was somehow "risqué" and not worthy of serious attention. But a few years ago Gibbons heard a vintage recording of Gershwin improvising on his own songs. Fascinated by the sheer virtuosity, Gibbons began transcribing the pieces and performed them at parties. Using them in concerts followed at a QEH recital in July 1990. After he played "Do, Do, Do" (from the 1926 show *Oh, Kay!*) the burst of applause told him he was on the right track.

The recital contained more than a dozen concert premieres of improvisations, taken from such songs as "Someone To Watch Over Me". Gibbons has continued to produce transcriptions and Gershwin's biographer, Edward Jablonski, has passed on newly discovered tunes

from the archives in America.

Isn't the idea of copying an improvisation note for note almost a contradiction in terms? Gibbons thinks not. "A lot of pianists would think 'Well, why don't you just play them in your own style?' But the thing is, these are almost little compositions in themselves. They're very intricate. 'Swanee', especially, has so much going on inside it."

"After the first concert I heard some comments in classical circles about the music being 'crude'. Since then I've been giving more explanations during performances, because people often aren't aware of the wealth of technical detail in the tunes."

Work has already begun on the second volume of recordings up to 1930, which will include the "Three Preludes" and *An American in Paris* as well as more transcriptions of show tunes. A projected third album will cover the last seven years of Gershwin's life, and will also feature his piano roll improvisations on songs by such poets as Jerome Kern and Irving Berlin.

As for Gibbons's career in "straight" music, that has not been totally neglected. He can in fact be heard, alongside the English Northern Philharmonia and mezzo soprano Sally Burgess, on an acclaimed recording of Constant Lambert's *The Rio Grande*, recently released on Hyperion.

Lambert was a confirmed Gershwin-basher. But who knows, Jack Gibbons's tireless efforts might just have won him over in the end.

RADIO REVIEW

High-flown infidelities, high and low fidelity

TOM Stoppard's play *The Real Thing* is a good choice for radio, since it is mainly glimmering word-play. Where Radio 3's production (Sunday) went wrong was in not making absolutely clear from the start who was who among the two couples the play is about. With an exchange of partners going on, it was important to know.

The women's voices, in particular, were not sufficiently differentiated and the characters did not address each other by name often enough. This was a joint Radio 3/World Service production by the Gordon House, and one wondered what overseas listeners were making of it.

However, even when one wasn't sure who was talking, he or she was always talking well. Infidelity followed infidelity, and epigrams streamed in their wake. Henry, the playwright, and the actress Annie were the main source of these: "I have to choose who I hurt," Annie said to Henry, "and I choose you because I'm yours." That was the sort of love they all gave each other.

It was really a modern equivalent of a Restoration comedy, with a little more heart showing. There was also an important sub-plot about a young soldier who had been sent to prison for burning a wreath on the Cenotaph, and had written a banal left-wing play that Annie wanted to see staged. That gave Henry (well played by Clive

Francis) scope for some of his most blistering remarks. "There's something scary about stupidity made coherent," he said, and went on to make quite a serious speech about what words can do: "If you get them right, you can nudge the world a little bit." It was an excellent evening's nudging, in spite of the initial confusion.

There were two programmes on Saturday afternoon about the death, now in progress, of the vinyl record, as CDs, cassettes and even more sophisticated formats sweep in. On Radio 2 Peter Jones, in *The Album — In Memoriam*, talked about the long-playing record.

This was a diffuse programme, which spent a lot of time on the early history of sound recording, and on nostalgic meanderings from LP buyers. Its best point was all the songs about records that it had discovered, especially one swing number called "Jumping at the Record Shop".

Much better was John Peel's programme, *Staying Single*, on Radio 1. This stayed close to its subject, and brought out the distinctive appeal of the 45rpm single. According to this programme, the singles boom began to fade with the arrival of the "concept album" — the long-playing record with inter-related songs on it. This was an affectionate essay in music history.

DERWENT MAY

TELEVISION REVIEW: Matthew d'Ancona

Incisive but charming

mince had already wagged a tetchy finger at the failings of the chief executive, who made a discreet exit. Enter Sir John Harvey-Jones, the trouble-shooter.

With his long hair and whiskers, he looks more like a benign sorcerer than a Mr Fidd. There is a twinkle in his eye as he takes through the ashes of business failure. He "pops in" to see companies and is "gobsmacked" by what they tell him. That is his talent: speak softly and carry a hatchet.

As one would expect from a

seasoned risk-taker, the trouble-shooter was in no doubt that the health service reforms were necessary. But he was less impressed by the policy in action. "Neither fish nor fowl," Sir John grumbled of an institution awkwardly between the helplessness of state control and the vulnerability of the market.

Money, he discovered, was not following patients to the hospitals, thanks in part to the frosty relations between the trust and the health authority. Many thousands had been invested in high-tech equip-

ment but the hospitals' long-term prospects were being damaged by the restrictions on capital. Though wrapped in commercial language, the trust could not borrow like a business.

Sir John's diagnosis was as stark as his manner was jolly. In a chilling scene, he ate dinner with the new chief executive and the chairman and, in most relaxed manner, tore their achievements to pieces: the accounting was wrong and there were too many sites.

The trust was advised to cut back, which is precisely what it did, hiring a new finance director and announcing plans to close three sites with the loss of 450 beds. Then, the trouble-shooter was on his merry way, in search of fresh targets for the next genial Exocet.

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Awake to snap, crackle and pap

Melinda Wittstock looks at GMTV, which takes over from TV-am in the new year and promises a tabloid diet at breakfast

Good morning, Britain. It's 6am. This is ITV. Roland Rat has gone, and although it may seem impossible to imagine, breakfast television is about to head even further downmarket.

GMTV, which takes over from TV-am in the new year as ITV's new purveyor of "snap, crackle and pap" breakfast fare, is not afraid to admit it: "Words like innovation, experiment, mission and agenda-setting are OUT as far as we are concerned," says Lis Howell, GMTV's director of programmes. Breezy banter between brightly-dressed presenters perched on pastel sofas won't attract a loyal audience of 2.5 million and make it one of the most profitable stations in the world.

GMTV plans to continue where the station it ousted in last year's ITV blind-bid franchise auction leaves off, with a "light and cheery" mix of quizzes, fitness tips, cartoons, news and some "lonely hearts" matchmaking aimed primarily at the millions of readers of tabloid newspapers.

Linda Lusardi, the former Page Three girl, will be "knocking the British man into shape" with health and fitness tips in *Healthy Hurks*, while Jeremy Beadle offers viewers £100 prizes with *Today's The Day*, one of many "trivia" quizzes on the new GMTV.

Holiday Snaps will offer viewers a win-a-holiday competition with such intellect-testing questions as: "Where are the Maldives? Western Australia? The Indian Ocean? Or the Irish Sea?" Viewers can also write to Lorraine Kelly, the TV-am presenter who takes over on GMTV at 8.50am with a magazine show aimed at women called *Top of the Morning*, for a "Hot Date".

Despite news headlines read from around a mock-suburban breakfast table every 15 minutes by



Taste of things to come: Kate Weston and Paul Zerdin, left, presenters of GMTV's *Rise and Shine*, and, right, Jeremy Beadle who presents a general knowledge quiz

Fiona Armstrong, the former *News At Ten* presenter, and Michael Wilson, former presenter of *The City Programme*, and half-hourly regional news bulletins supplied from 18 different ITV regions and sub-regions, extracts of GMTV rehearsals shown to the press look more downmarket than TV-am in its pre-franchise auction heyday.

Ms Howell may promise little in the way of surprise for TV-am's audience, but unlike its predecessor, GMTV will be handicapped by staggeringly large payments to the Treasury, a crippling advertising recession and fierce competition for ratings and revenue from *The Big Breakfast*, Channel 4's anarchic early morning offering.

GMTV, which faces an annual bill of £34.6 million for its licence

plus a 15 per cent levy on its advertising revenue, will find it tough to attract enough viewers to avoid a further decline in programme standards.

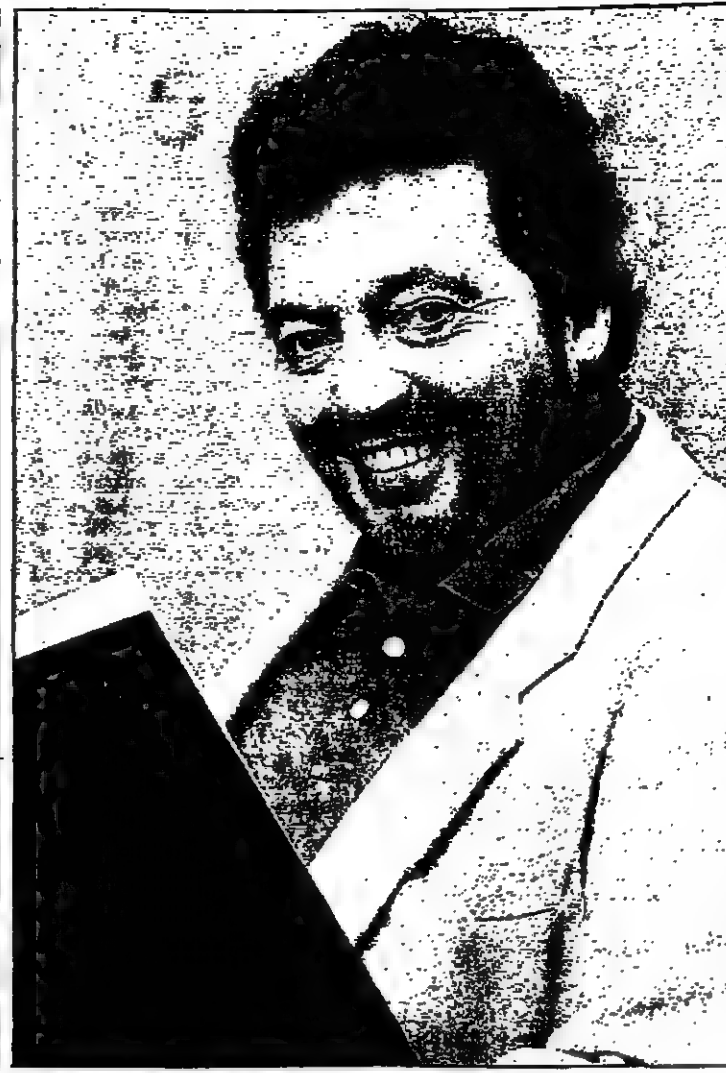
GMTV has had to cut its already-tight budget by £8 million owing to a decline in advertising revenue projections, and advertising agencies now expect *The Big Breakfast* — which has confounded its critics with peak audiences five times larger at one million than its predecessor, *Channel 4 Daily* — to cost GMTV at least £4 million in lost income.

Many in the industry even question GMTV's long-term survival. Bruce Gynell, TV-am's chief executive, predicts it will have gone bust within 18 months, and earlier this year Andrew Quinn, ITV's new

GMTV will be handicapped by staggeringly large payments to the Treasury

chief executive, was quoted saying: "If Channel 4 can generate sufficient audiences then the underlying viability of the ITV breakfast franchise has to be in question."

GMTV, jointly owned by LWT, Scottish, Carlton, Walt Disney and The Guardian, was originally banking on £78 million a year worth of advertising; many now think it will be hard-pressed to earn more than £60 million. At that rate, its Treasury payments alone will total £44 million, leaving little for programming after salaries and other overheads are paid.



Nonetheless, Christopher Stoddart, its chief executive, is as cheery about GMTV's prospects as the presenters will appear to viewers each morning from 6am until 9.20am. "We're quite bullish," he says. "We've got a brighter version of TV-am, with better pacing and tremendous chemistry between presenters."

And he reveals: "We've sold tens of millions of pounds of advertising for 1993, including a substantial portion of January; we've attracted £11 million in sponsorship revenue, and we will also be on air 15 per cent under budget."

He denies that the *Big Breakfast* antics of Bob Geldof, his wife Paula Yates in her boudoir, and wacky presenter Chris Evans — described recently in *The Guardian* as a

"manic meeting of light minds" — has forced GMTV in any way to alter its programme format.

Light on the news *The Big Breakfast* might be, but the unexpected success of the "yoof TV" programme will make the temptation to go further tabloid irresistible to GMTV, which is competing for the same audience of housewives and children in a battle as fierce as that between *The Sun* and *The Daily Mirror*.

"GMTV will be *The Sun* on TV," predicts Paul Longhurst, joint media director of Bartle Bogle Hegarty, the advertising agency.

CORRECTION

Margaret D'Arcy Smith was appointed editor of *Cosmopolitan* in 1989, not 1992 as reported on December 2.

PAUL FOX

The author is a former managing director of BBC Television

In search of a new chief for BBC1

Who is in the running to replace Jonathan Powell?

Early in the new year Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC, John Birt, the new director-general, and Will Wyatt, managing director television, will face half-a-dozen candidates who consider themselves suitable to run the BBC's most important programme outlet: BBC 1. Last year, Jonathan Powell, who is leaving for ITV, had nearly £600 million at his disposal — more than the chief executive of ITV has this year, his budget having just been cut from £600 million to £510 million.

Mr Powell leaves with his reputation enhanced by the best new drama series of the year *Between the Lines* and continuing ratings successes on Saturdays with *Casualty* and *Noel's House Party*. He goes to Carlton, a new ITV company with no studios and only promises of programmes, run by a chairman who has proved himself as a businessman but has yet to show he is a broadcaster. Of Mr Powell's six predecessors as controller BBC 1, four joined the competition, underlining that the BBC can never totally satisfy talented people.

The new controller will have to solve the *Eldorado* problem and probably make do with less money. Nevertheless there is no shortage of candidates. From inside the BBC there will be Janet Street-Porter, Jim Mair and one or two lesser-known names from the regions. Outside the BBC, David Elstein of Thames has made clear he is not available and the same presumably applies to Paul Jackson, Mr Powell's boss at Carlton. This leaves John Gau, once a shining light at the BBC, Steve Morrison, at Granada, Alan Boyd, ex-TVBS, ex-LWT and ex-BBC and John Willis of Channel 4. Whoever gets the job faces the task of commissioning 6,000 hours of television a year.

PAUL FOX

The author is a former managing director of BBC Television

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Tabloids speak for us all

As if my reputation were not fierce enough already, I must confess that I presently work for the most hated British institution: the tabloid newspaper.

Yes, I write a weekly column for the *Daily Express*.

I am therefore prejudiced. Indeed, I have long had a soft spot for the tabloids. This is not because I can defend their every action. For example, I found *The People's* attempt to distinguish between someone else recording telephone conversations — between David Mellor and Miss de Sancta and their using the tapes rather nauseating.

I have serious objections to invasions of royal or commoner privacy whether by paparazzi or telephone eavesdroppers. As chief press secretary at No 10, I often fell victim to tabloid over-simplification, heroic interpretation and even distortion. Kelvin MacKenzie, editor of *The Sun*, could be hilariously crude — and cruel.

But he and his tabloid colleagues are refreshingly unapologetic, if not necessarily entirely accurate. Personally, I thought it reasonable for the Prince and Princess of Wales to look solemn in each other's presence when recently they

were honouring the dead in South Korea.

The tabloids are also competing in a free market. They know their readers and set out to serve them. In contrast to their more burdened broadsheet colleagues, they exhibit a *jolie de vivre* which is reflected in their use of type, earthy language, fractured puns and forthright opinions.

As a press officer, I found them easier to deal with than many so-called quality newspapers. At least, they were interested in the news instead of pursuing their own prejudices. Nor did they do for Neil Kinnock in the general election if the research into the voting of tabloid (and broadsheet) readers is any guide. They did not invent David Mellor's problems. They did not cause Brito to drop out of the exchange-rate mechanism like a stone. They did not propose the closure of two-thirds of the coal industry at the bottom of a slump. And they did not break three royal marriages.

Indeed, their reputation for



BERNARD INGHAM

editor of the *Daily Star*, observed last week, *The Daily Telegraph* gave seven pages to the Wales separation. *The Times* six, and *The Guardian* and *The Independent* five each.

Broadsheet cartoonists and gossip columnists are as bitchy and nasty as the rest. As for television, camera crews will do themselves — or someone else — serious injury one of these days as they crane, teeter and jostle for shots of the latest personality with a personal problem. And why are the victims of crime or their relatives now ritually paraded at police press conferences but to give television its daily dose of harrowing footage?

So what is preoccupying Sir

David Calcutt, QC, and Mr Clive Soley MP, both of whom are examining how to improve standards of journalism? Both seek to curb what many see as an abuse of power. Mr Soley wants to legislate against this abuse and for higher standards of journalism, while Sir David may well confirm his ideas for outlawing invasions of privacy.

Sir David's proposals may prove much more welcome than Mr Soley's bill which would saddle a free press with an independent press authority.

But let us not evade the real issue: the reformers are seeking further to curb excess in that most sensitive of free markers — free speech. Before we go down that route we need to be sure there is something more seriously wrong than lapses of good taste which offend our sensitive Establishment and middle classes.

We must be honest with ourselves. Compared with the broadsheets, the tabloids sell like hot cakes. There is no evidence of market resistance to scandal. On the contrary, the tabloids sell even better when one is running. And the broadsheets follow where tabloids dare to tread.

Isn't the real problem human nature? And how do you change that?

Readers of popular papers are forever disentangling TV fiction from reality

Insane shadow of pop culture

"YOU was on the telly!" says a nasty little girl in Anthony Burgess dystopian novel 1985. Appearing on television is the final accolade, the pearl of great price. I know. As a person, I used to do *The Epilogue* sometimes and parishioners would say to me what that nasty little girl said in 1985. Impossible but true: parishioners would sit up late watching all kinds of rubbish for the great prize of seeing my cathode image on the box for five minutes at one o'clock in the morning.

Being on television is a lot more important than being in real life. All is image and no reality. How long before we shall not need to be at all, but only to appear?

There is a simple enough example of vanity, I suppose, and of our being seduced by a host of electronic tricks. The really puerile aspect of this vanity though becomes evident when you realise that it does not matter what you do when you are on telly. The

mode of your appearing — be it as scorer of the winning goal in a Cup Final or only a face in the crowd — is irrelevant appearance is all.

This represents the ultimate triumph of form over content.

Does this confusion of image with reality matter? I think it does in the case of the tabloid newspapers whose existence is so bound up with popular television programmes that the one could hardly survive without the other. Remember the massacre at Hungerford described as "Rambo Murders"? This is dangerous because it makes real life second best to fiction and so demeans it.

A tabloid's story about a real event can be utterly

unintelligible to someone who does not possess a television set and who therefore does not see all the soaps, chat shows, adverts, films and film reviews. It might go like this:

HOME ALONE SHARON IN ASSAULT NIGHTMARE

Sharon, aged 13, had only an evening with *The Simpsons* in mind when a Ninja-style hitman burst into her living room and there began an horrific replay of *Night Games*. Luckily for Sharon, Between the Lines Tony Clark, lookalike, Steven Briggs, just happened to be passing on his way to assist in *Ask Anika*. Through the keyhole, Shō Kōsugi fan Steve glimpsed the start of a vicious attack, smashed his way in Schwarzenegger style and saved the petrified Sharon. Later he said: "If I hadn't happened to stumble

by, she would have got the same as Jodie Foster and worse."

There are millions of people who would understand every word of this story, though it consists mainly of the proper names of fictional characters. These sorts of proper names have become a cultural shorthand used increasingly to convey news about the real world. The trouble with the present close connection between the tabloids and the telly is that people are offered real life as indistinguishable from the fictional ingredients of pop culture.

We approach a crisis when images become more "real" than reality, when reality can be communicated only by means of pop culture's cheap fiction. We pass beyond crisis into even more dangerous insanity when the reciprocal event occurs and real life, and therefore real people, are turned into a mere series of expendable images.

PETER MULLEN

for us.

Privy Council

GMC uses English law in Scotland

McAllister v General Medical Council

Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Griffiths and Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle

[Judgment December 14]

The law of England applied to proceedings before the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council whenever in the United Kingdom the committee sat.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council held in dismissing an appeal by the appellant, Dr Thomas Anderson McAllister, against the determination of the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council on May 8, 1992, that by reason of a finding of serious professional misconduct his registration in the register of medical practitioners should be erased.

Mr Jonathan Mitchell, QC (of the Scots Bar) for Dr McAllister; Mr Julian Bevan, QC and Miss Rosalind Foster for the GMC.

LORD JAUNCEY said that the hearing took place before the committee in Glasgow. Both parties were represented by English counsel and an English Queen's Counsel was the legal assessor. When the case came before the Judicial Committee counsel for the appellant sought to introduce grounds of appeal relating to the fact that the proceedings had taken place in Scotland rather than England.

He maintained that, in the absence of any direction in the statutory rules as to which system of law should apply to hearings before the committee, the *lex fori* had to apply and there was

insufficient corroboration by the law of Scotland to entitle the committee to find charge 2(b) proved.

The statutory background against which the committee operated was the Medical Act 1983. In accordance with its duty under that Act the committee had made the General Medical Council Preliminary Proceedings Committee and Professional Conduct Committee (Procedure) Rules Order of Council (SI 1988 No 2255).

Further statutory provisions relevant to the appeal were sections 1(1) and 9(4) of the Civil Evidence (Scotland) Act 1988. Section 1 provided:

"(1) In any civil proceedings the court... if satisfied that any fact has been established by evidence in the proceedings, shall be entitled to find that fact proved by that evidence notwithstanding that the evidence is not corroborated."

By section 9(4) civil proceedings included "any proceedings before a tribunal or inquiry, except in so far as, in relation to the conduct of proceedings before the tribunal or inquiry, specific provision has been made as regards the rules of evidence which are to apply."

Mr Mitchell submitted that the *lex fori* determined questions of substantive law, evidence and procedure. The GMC was required to apply the law of Scotland in relation to the dishonesty referred to in charge 2(b); and that the failure of the legal assessor to draw the attention of the committee to the need for corroboration and the case should be remitted back to the committee for a rehearing.

He accepted that the proceedings, albeit analogous to criminal

proceedings, were civil rather than criminal.

However he submitted that a dictum in *Langford v General Medical Council* [1990] 1 AC 13, 19-20, that the onus and standard of proof in such disciplinary proceedings were those applicable to a criminal trial, required that notwithstanding the provisions of the 1988 Act corroboration was necessary.

Even if Scots law of evidence applied to the proceedings of the committee in Glasgow the appeal failed. Section 1(1) of the 1988 Act applied to any civil proceedings or tribunal unless specific provision had been made as regards the rules of evidence which were to apply.

The exception in section 9(4) applied only where there existed rules which specifically dealt with corroboration in a manner which superseded the application of section 1(1).

There being no such provision in the 1988 Rules, the application of section 1(1) of the 1988 Act had not been excluded.

The dictum in *Langford v General Medical Council* could not be treated as having universal application in all cases arising before the committee.

In charges brought against a doctor where the events giving rise to the charges would also found serious criminal charges, it might be appropriate that the onus and standards of proof should be those applicable to a criminal trial.

However, there would be many cases where the charges which the doctor had to face before the committee could not be the subject of serious or any criminal charges at all.

The committee was composed entirely of medical men and women and to require that every charge of professional misconduct had to be proved to them just as though they were a jury of laymen was neither necessary nor desirable.

What was of prime importance was that the charge and the conduct of the proceedings should be fair to the doctor in all respects. If Scots law had applied to the proceedings the committee would not have been obliged to disregard section 1(1) of the 1988 Act and to apply the criminal law of evidence. In any event there was ample corroboration in relation to charge 2(b).

That was sufficient to dispose of the appeal but their Lordships thought it right to consider whether Scots law was applicable at all to the proceedings.

It was the first occasion on which the committee had sat in Scotland. It did so because of the state of health of the appellant.

Cases involving Scots doctors had always been heard in London and it had never been suggested that any law other than that of England applied to the proceedings.

The council and the committee were United Kingdom bodies and it was highly desirable that the same rules of evidence and procedure should apply throughout the United Kingdom wherever the committee sat.

Their Lordships were satisfied that the law of England was the correct law to have been applied in the proceedings. Their Lordships recommended the appeal should be dismissed.

Solicitors: Le Brasseur, Field, Fisher, Whitehouse.

McLaughlin and Another v British Coal Corporation

Before Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice Nolan

[Judgment December 10]

A county court judge had to address his mind in accordance with the High Court and County Courts Jurisdiction Order (SI 1991 No 774), made under section 120(4) of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, as to whether an action before him of which the value was less than £25,000 could be transferred to the High Court.

However, once he had taken into account such matters as article 7(5) as to whether the action raised any question of general importance to persons who were not parties to the action or any questions of general public importance, then he had a discretion under article 7(3)(a) whether or not to transfer the action.

The Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Balcombe dissenting, held that when dismissing the appeal of *British Coal Corporation* against the refusal of Judge Heald in Nottingham County Court on November 25, 1992 to refuse his application to transfer to the Chancery Division of the High Court the action brought against it by Mr Michael McLaughlin and Mr Trevor Sage, two miners in its employment, which concerned an alleged breach of an implied term of those miners' contracts of employment.

Mr Charles Falconer, QC and Ms Daphne Loebl for the corporation; Mr Ian A. B. McLaren for the two miners.

LORD STAUGHTON said that following the government's announcement on October 13, 1992 that certain coal mines faced closure, thousands of proceedings were commenced and were pending.

Mr McLaughlin and Mr Sage claimed damages for breach of implied terms in their contracts of employment with British Coal Corporation, Coal at the two pits at Nottinghamshire was not produced.

They had attended work daily but had been prevented from working underground and so had been only paid the guaranteed minimum wage and not the incentive bonus they would have earned had they been allowed to work underground.

The second set of proceedings concerned the refusal of the Certification Officer, the first respondent, to grant a certificate of independence on December 15, 1989. The Council of Civil Service Unions (CCSU) was granted leave to be joined as second respondent.

Section 5 of the 1992 Act provides: "In this Act an 'independent trade union' means a trade union which (a) is not under the domination or control of an employer or group of employers or of one or more employers' associ-

ation? In theory the action should be tried in the non-jury list of the Queen's Bench Division for that was its natural home it was a perfectly ordinary claim in contract."

It might be that the Chancery Division would provide a speedier trial but it would be wrong to transfer an action from one division of the High Court to another merely to provide a speedier trial.

Once a county court judge had taken into account any relevant matter in article 7(5) then he had a discretion under article 7(3)(a) whether to transfer the action to the High Court, where the value of the action was less than £25,000.

The county court judge had reached the right decision in the exercise of his discretion. The straight contract issue should be separated from the Chancery action and the judge was entitled to conclude that it was a county court matter.

LORD JUSTICE NOLAN, agreeing, said that the responsibility for the initial decision whether to transfer was placed by section 42(1) and by the 1991 Order firmly on the county court judge.

He had directed his mind effectively to all the criteria in article 7(5) and particularly to the crucial question of general importance.

It would be wrong to interfere

with the correct exercise of discretion by the judge who had directed himself upon all the relevant issues.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE, dissenting, said that the action was not one which fell within section 42(1) of the County Courts Act 1984. It came under section 42(2) which gave the county court judge a discretion but which had to be applied in accordance with article 7.

The county court judge had to consider whether the action should be in the High Court. He need not have considered which particular division.

The judge had not dealt with the question of transfer. He had not asked himself that question. He had dealt with questions of convenience as to whether the action should be tried with the pending Chancery action.

The action was of a kind to be tried in the High Court. Having reached that decision the judge then ought to have considered any countervailing factors such as delay, although in the present case delay would have been minimal.

The county court judge had therefore erred in the exercise of his discretion.

Solicitors: Nabarro Nathanson, Hopkin & Sons, Mansfield.

GCHQ staff federation not an independent trade union

Government Communications Staff Federation v Certification Officer and Another

Before Mr Justice Wood, Mrs M. R. Boyle, Mr A. D. Scott, Mr S. Spragg and Mrs M. R. S. Sunderland

[Judgment December 10]

The Government Communications Staff Federation (GCSF) formed in 1985 for staff at Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) at Cheltenham was not an independent trade union within the definition in section 5 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 and was not entitled to a certificate of independence since it was vulnerable to interference by GCHQ.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal on appeal from the refusal of the Certification Officer, the first respondent, to grant a certificate of independence on December 15, 1989. The Council of Civil Service Unions (CCSU) was granted leave to be joined as second respondent.

Section 5 of the 1992 Act provides: "In this Act an 'independent trade union' means a trade union which (a) is not under the domination or control of an employer or group of employers or of one or more employers' associ-

ation, and (b) is not liable to interference by an employer or any such group or association (arising out of the provision of financial or material support or by any other means whatsoever) tending towards such control and references to 'independence' in relation to a trade union shall be construed accordingly."

Mr Brian Moore, chairman, for GCSF; Mr David Pannick, QC, for the Certification Officer; Mr Gavin Millar for the CCSU.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that GCSF was listed as a trade union under the Employment Protection Act 1975. The listing of a trade union conferred on it some benefits but a certificate that it was an independent trade union conferred further rights. The TUC and CCSU objected to the application for a certificate of independence and it was rejected.

In 1984 new terms of employment had been agreed which staff would not be permitted to be members of trade unions other than a departmental staff association approved by the director of GCHQ. In 1985 the GCSF was formed.

On appeal GCSF had to satisfy the appeal tribunal that it was not under the domination or control of the management of GCHQ and that it was not liable to interference by that management.

Mr Moore had submitted that there was a degree of permanency about GCSF but the appeal tribunal was unable to accept that submission. If approval or recognition was withdrawn on the ground of national security there was no remedy open to them.

Mr Moore also submitted that the staff at GCHQ were no different from any other civil servant but that was not right because other civil servants had rights under the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978. He also argued that affiliation with other trade unions had been permitted by the constitution of GCSF without serious challenge from management.

But there had been no attempt at affiliation and it seemed to the appeal tribunal that if it were attempted GCSF would be instantly de-recognised.

It seemed clear that GCSF was vulnerable to interference because it was a condition of service that staff were not permitted to be members of other trade unions and that statutory employment rights had been withdrawn from staff at GCHQ. GCSF had failed to satisfy section 5(b) of the 1992 Act and the appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Russell Jones & Walker.

Custody time limit applies to fresh charge

Regina v Waltham Forest Justices, Ex parte Lee and Another

Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Hill

[Judgment December 11]

Where a charge against a defendant was withdrawn and an alternative charge, based on the same set of facts, was substituted, a new custody time limit applied from the date of the preferment of the new charge.

It was usually wholly undesirable for counsel to swear an affidavit in relation to a case in which he was conducting an appeal.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, dismissing an application by *Waynes Lee and Wayne Lee* for a writ of *certiorari* to quash the decision of Waltham Forest Justices on September 4 further to remand them in custody on a charge of wounding with intent, contrary to section 18 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861.

Mr Neil Guest for the defendants; Mr Ian Winter for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said that an affidavit by counsel for the defendants was before the court. Save in exceptional circumstances, it was wholly undesirable for counsel to swear an affidavit in relation to a case in which he was conducting an appeal or otherwise seeking redress.

The swearing of an affidavit presupposed a willingness to be cross-examined and it was clearly unsatisfactory for one person to be both advocate and witness.

Further, where the facts in the affidavit related to the history of the proceedings it was usually likely that the solicitor would have a more comprehensive knowledge of the relevant sequence of events.

The defendants had originally been charged with attempted murder and had been remanded in custody. A custody time limit of 70 days applied by virtue of the Prosecution of Offences (Custody Time Limits) Regulations (SI

1987 No 299).

The charge of attempted murder was then withdrawn and offences under section 18 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 were preferred. The date fixed for the committal proceedings was outside the initial custody time limit.

The prosecution took the view that the section 18 offences attracted a new set of custody time limits. Mr Guest argued that the section 18 charges did not attract new time limits as they arose out of the same facts and had to be seen as alternative rather than new charges.

Mr Guest submitted that *R v Wirth District Magistrate Court, Ex parte Melville* (1990) Crim LR 801, in which it was held that each offence attracted its own custody time limit, should be distinguished on its facts. Unlike in *Ex parte Melville*, the attempted murder and the section 18 charges arose from the same, rather than different facts.

His Lordship accepted the answer provided by Mr Winter that

the regulations were directed not towards the offender but towards the offence. Mr Guest's submission failed to make a proper distinction between an offence and a set of facts.

Lord Justice Rose said that the regulations applied so as to permit the running of new custody time limits from the identifying and charging of a new offence.

As to the question of bad faith, no doubt it would be an abuse of process if the Crown Prosecution Service preferred new charges which were more or less serious alternatives in relation to the same facts, or on different facts, solely for the purpose of defeating the custody time limits.

Mala fides of that kind would not be tolerated. However, there was not a scrap of evidence that the CPS had acted in bad faith or that the CPS had acted in bad faith or that the CPS had acted in bad faith.

Mr Justice Hill agreed. Solicitors: Howletts, CPS, Headquarters.

Stop loss insurers have enforceable rights of subrogation

Napier and Ettrick (Lord) and Another v R. F. Kerrish Ltd and Others

Before Lord Templeman, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Slynn of Hadley

[Speeches December 10]

On payment to the assureds, members of a Lloyd's syndicate, of their claims under stop loss policies, the stop loss insurers had become entitled to be subrogated to the assureds' right to recover damages against the tortfeasors, although the amount recoverable had not then been quantified.

The stop loss insurers had an enforceable equitable interest in the damages recovered by way of settlement of an action against the tortfeasors and were entitled to injunctions restraining the holders of the settlement moneys, *Richards Butler*, solicitors, from paying and the assureds from recovering any part of the settlement moneys until the amount due to them by way of subrogation had been paid to them.

The amounts of the assureds' underwriting losses represented by the excesses on the stop loss policies were to be borne by the assureds until the stop loss insurers had been fully indemnified pursuant to their right of subrogation.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the stop loss insurers, the fifth to fourteenth defendants, and dismissed a cross-appeal by the assureds, represented by the first plaintiff, Lord Napier and Ettrick, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice Nolan) (*The Times*, July 17). The Court of Appeal had allowed in part an appeal by the fifth to fourteenth defendants from an order made by Mr Justice Saville on June 12 in proceedings brought by Lord Napier and Ettrick *Butler*.

Mr David Donaldson, QC and Mr Michael Swainston for the stop loss insurers; Mr Anthony Bosword, QC and Mr Stephen Moriarty for the assureds.

LORD TEMPLEMAN said that when an insured person suffered a loss he would be entitled to the insurance money and might also be entitled to sue for damages anyone responsible for the loss.

For example, if a house were insured for £100,000 against fire and was damaged by fire to an extent exceeding £100,000, the insurance company would pay £100,000.

If the fire had been caused by a negligent builder or some other contractual or tortious wrongdoer, the insured person would sue the wrongdoer for damages.

If the house had been damaged to the extent of £160,000, the insured person would receive damages from the wrongdoer of £160,000.

At that stage, he would have made a profit since he would only have suffered a loss of £160,000 but would have collected a total of £260,000 from the insurance company and the wrongdoer.

A policy of insurance, however, was a contract of indemnity, and by the doctrine of subrogation the insured person had to pay back to the insurer the sum of £100,000. He would then have made neither a loss nor a profit.

The appeal required consideration of the principles and application of the doctrine of subrogation.

The assureds were 246 members of the Outwaite Syndicate 317/661 of Lloyd's (the "names"). The wrongdoer was, *inter alia*, the managing agent of the syndicate ("Outwaite"), which had negligently written large numbers of policies on behalf of the names in respect of asbestos claims without adequate reinsurance cover.

Each name had paid a premium to stop loss insurers for a policy whereby the stop loss insurers had agreed to "indemnify the assured for the amount by way of the assured's overall ascertained net underwriting loss... for the... years of account shown... exceeds the amount stated as 'excess' in the schedule".

The policy had also provided that "the underwriters' liability

hereunder shall not exceed the amount stated as 'limit' in the schedule".

The limit and the excess had varied from policy to policy. For purposes of illustration, the arguments in the courts below and in the House of Lords had assumed that for 1982, one of the underwriting years of account in question, a particular hypothetical name had suffered a net underwriting loss of £160,000, that the excess had been £25,000 and that the limit had been £100,000.

On those figures, the stop loss insurers had paid the name £100,000, being the fixed amount of the limit (£100,000) that had exceeded the excess (£25,000).

The names together with other names had sued Outwaite (and over 80 other members agents at Lloyd's) for damages for negligence and breach of duty in respect of, *inter alia*, the 1982 year of account.

Those proceedings had been compromised on payment by Outwaite of £16m to Richards Butler as solicitors for the plaintiffs in the action.

For the purposes of the illustration it was assumed that included in the £16m Richards Butler held £130,000 attributable to the overall ascertained net loss of £160,000 suffered by the hypothetical name for the 1982 year of account.

Section 40 provides: "(1) Where the commission by any person of an offence to which section 39... applies is due to an act or omission committed by some other person in the course of any business of his, the other person shall be guilty of the offence and may be proceeded against... whether or not proceedings are taken against the first-mentioned person."

Mr Frederick Philpott and Miss Claire Andrews for the defendant; Mr Maurice Kay, QC and Mr David Sanderson for the council.

LORD ROSKILL said that the defendant had placed outside the group's Stratford-upon-Avon branch a notice stating "We will beat any TV, hi-fi and video price by £20 on the spot".

A customer, having seen a television set on sale in Dixons which was on sale elsewhere in Stratford-upon-Avon for £159.95, had sought to purchase the set at Dixons for £139.95. The defendant had refused to sell it at the reduced price.

When he was interviewed by the council's trading standards department the defendant frankly admitted that he had been wrong but said that he had acted in the heat of the moment when he was under pressure. Those proceedings then followed.

The justices dismissed the information, but the Divisional Court held that the notice had been misleading because the defendant had refused to honour his terms

on those assumptions, two problems arose: first, how much was payable to the stop loss insurers by way of subrogation; second, were the stop loss insurers entitled to be paid the amounts found due to them by way of subrogation or the damages now held by Richards Butler?

At first instance, Mr Justice Saville had decided that the hypothetical name would be entitled to be fully indemnified for his loss of £160,000. He had received £100,000 from the stop loss insurers and the £60,000 from Outwaite. He would keep £60,000 and pay £70,000 to the stop loss insurers. In the result, he would have fully recouped his loss of £160,000.

That analysis, however, ignored the fact that the name had agreed to pay £25,000 of any loss. In his Lordship's opinion, the insured was not entitled to be indemnified against a loss that he had agreed to bear. He agreed with the Court of Appeal that the name had to bear the loss to the extent of the excess, namely, £25,000. So he had to pay £25,000 to the stop loss insurers: £130,000 of the £160,000 loss in excess of £125,000.

His Lordship did not consider that *Castellan v Preston* (1883) 11 QB 380, relied on by Mr Justice Saville, was helpful in deciding whether a name who had

promised the stop loss insurers to bear the first £25,000 loss was entitled to be put in the same position as an insured person who had made no such promise.

The second question was whether the stop loss insurers had an interest in the money held by Richards Butler. Following the example given, could they assert an interest in the £130,000 paid by Outwaite and held by Richards Butler to the extent of the £95,000 due to them by way of subrogation?

When the stop loss insurers had paid £100,000 to the hypothetical name under the policy, they had immediately become entitled to be subrogated to the right of the name to sue and recover damages in an action against Outwaite, albeit that the amount payable to them by way of subrogation could not be satisfied until the action had been concluded and the damages paid.

White v Dobson (1844) 11 Sim 273; 116 LTOS 233 was authority for the proposition that, if application was made to the court before the proceedings had been concluded in respect of which an insurer was entitled to subrogation, the court would not allow the damages to be paid over without satisfying the insurer's claims.

In *Yorkshire Insurance Co Ltd v Nisbet Shipping Co Ltd* (1962) 2 QB 330 and *Hobbs v Marlowe*

(1978) AC 16 Lord Diplock, far from deciding that a court of equity could not lend its aid to compel the assured to direct that the right of the insurer to recoupment under the doctrine of subrogation should be satisfied out of the damages recovered from the wrongdoer, had equated the right of the insurer to that of the assignee of an equitable interest, a right which equity would of course enforce.

In the hypothetical case under consideration, the intervention of equity was required to ensure that the insured person exercised his right of action against the wrongdoer in good faith and that the insurer was recouped out of the damages recovered from the wrongdoer. The stop loss insurers were entitled to be recouped £95,000 as soon as the damages of £130,000 were available from the wrongdoer.

The name could not delay or frustrate recoupment without inflicting harm on the insurer who remained out of pocket to the extent of £100,000 until he was recouped. The name could not make use of the damages available for recoupment of the stop loss insurers without receiving a benefit or advantage to which he was not entitled.

There were 246 names, some resident in the United States and elsewhere abroad. Their Lordships had been informed and accepted

that Lord Napier and Ettrick was a man of honour and substance and would fulfil his obligations although he was not apparently willing to fulfil them until a writ was issued and judgment obtained against him for money had and received. But no one could answer for the other 245 names.

If the stop loss insurers had no equitable remedy in connection with their rights and a name became bankrupt, subrogation was a mockery.

The judge and the Court of Appeal had held that the stop loss insurers were entitled to their remedy for money had and received. But authorities spanning over two centuries established that an insurer entitled to subrogation had an enforceable equitable interest in the damages payable by the wrongdoer.

The insured person was guilty of unconscionable conduct if he did not provide for the insurer to be recouped out of the damages awarded against the wrongdoer. Equity would not allow him to insist on his legal right to all the damages and would restrain him from recovering or dealing with those damages so far as they were required to recoup the insurer under the doctrine of subrogation.

The judge and the Court of Appeal appeared to have thought that equity could only interfere by creating a trust fund. If that were

the only method of protecting the rights of an insurer the practical disadvantages would be fearsome.

Fortunately, equity was not so inflexible or powerless.

In order to protect the rights of the insurer under the doctrine of subrogation equity considered that the damages payable by the wrongdoer to the insured person were subject to an equitable lien or charge in favour of the insurer.

The stop loss insurers were entitled to injunctions restraining Richards Butler from paying and each name from receiving any part of the damages of £16m without first providing or paying out of the damages payable the name the amount that had been or should be found to be due from that name to the stop loss insurers by way of subrogation.

Since drafting his speech his Lordship had read in draft the speech to be delivered by Lord Goff. His Lordship agreed that in the circumstances it was now necessary to decide whether the equitable lien or charge attached also to the rights of action vested in the insured person to recover from a third party.

His Lordship had expressed the view that the doctrine of subrogation did apply in those circumstances, but in any future case, if the point became material, that view might require reconsideration in the light of further research.

Subject to that observation, his Lordship agreed with the views expressed by Lord Goff and with the speeches of Lord Jauncey and Lord Browne-Wilkinson.

LORD GOFF, concurring in allowing the stop loss insurers' appeal, said that he wished to reserve his opinion on the question whether the equitable proprietary interest of the insurer attached only to a fund consisting of sums that had come into the hands of the assured in reduction of the loss paid by the insurer or whether it attached also to a right of action vested in the assured which, if enforced, would yield such a fund.

He agreed with Lord Templeman and Lord Jauncey in dismissing the assureds' cross-appeal.

LORD

The Times writers choose their favourite sports books of the year

Gower's timing immaculate as ever

ALAN LEE

THE autobiographies of sportsmen are not known for being unputdownable, even when the personality concerned has the appeal of David Gower. Nor, in these recessionary times, are they known for selling well.

The batsman's achievement, with the help of Martin Johnson, in securing a best seller with *Gower* (Collins Willow, £14.99) was undoubtedly helped by the gift of timing, the book being published in the week that Gower was dramatically ditched by England.

It is an outstandingly good read and narrowly usurps Patrick Murphy's loving travel through England's greens and meadows in *The Rothman's Book of Village Cricket* (Bloomsbury, £16.99) as my cricket book of the year.

DAVID HANDS

RUGBY union's high profile has given rise to a variety of books this year, from the historical and statistical through to the autobiographical, but the one that stands above all others — as his team has done — is that written by Bob Dwyer, the Australian coach, titled, aptly enough, *The Winning Way* (Queen Anne Press, £15.95).

Dwyer's capacity to speak his mind does not endear him with everyone, but that quality is flavoured by an historic perspective and a generosity which few players achieve. The book is a reminder of rugby's cyclical nature, but also a challenging statement about the future of union and rugby league.

JENNY MACARTHUR

IN SEPTEMBER, Henderson Milton became the first show jumper to win £1 million in prize-money. The charismatic grey, owned by Tom and Doreen Bradley, has won nearly every important grand prix as well as the European championships and two World Cups.

"If he were a human being, he would be in the Olivier, Fonteyn, Pavarotti league..." Judith Draper writes in *Milton. Super Champion* (Springfield Books Ltd, £17.95), a well-researched and definitive account of the near-legendary horse.

Bred by John Harding-Rolls specifically to show jump, Milton's precocious talent was first nurtured by the late Caroline Bradley. After her tragically early death in 1983, he was given to John Whitaker to ride. Whitaker's partnership with Milton is movingly told by Draper. Happily, it is a partnership which shows no sign of ending. In the nine weeks since he became a "millionaire", the 15-year-old has won a further £80,000.

Pat Smythe, another show jumping legend, has produced one of the most readable and colourful equestrian autobiographies in her latest book, *Leaping Life's Fences* (The Sportsman's Press, £16.95).

ANDREW

IN A thin 12 months for tennis literature, the *Official Wimbledon Annual 1992* (Chapman Publishers, £16.99) is a reliable chronicle of this year's championships and a beautifully produced reminder of the high days of summer. The brilliant colour photography captures the mood as well as action of the fortnight from juniors to veterans via the two singles champions, Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf, and the British hero of the hour, Jeremy Bates.

The text is authoritative and fast moving, brimming with facts and quotes. "Do I look better in black or white?" Agassi asked in his speech at the champions' dinner. A book to disappear into amid the mayhem of Christmas.

STUART JONES

THE rise, fall and rise of Kenny Dalglish is finely traced in Stephen F. Kelly's



Not one to be put down: Gower's autobiography is as entertaining as its subject's stroke-play

PETER BALL

biography. Although few direct quotes are featured, *Dalglish* (Headline, £14.99) paints a full and colourful portrait of one of the greatest players, who developed into one of the most sensitive and knowledgeable of managers. The book sheds light, particularly on the darker moments in his career. Those who doubted the legitimacy of his reason for leaving Liverpool almost two years ago should be enlightened by the chapters that cover the Heyzel and Hillsborough disasters.

FOOTBALL books are generally the domain of participants. This year, two important contributions come from observers. Nick Hornby's *Fever Pitch* (Gollancz, £13.99) is a loving and perceptive tale of what being a fan is about. He is an Arsenal supporter, which tarnishes the idyl a little. What can you make of someone who becomes the constant exclusion of players such as Rodney

Marsh and Chris Waddle from the England team while supporting a club whose football is epitomised by Peter Storey and Tony Adams?

No such schizophrenia pervades *A Season in the Cold* (Kingswood, £8.99). Ian Ridley's journey through English football from Hackney Marshes to Wembley in the 1991-2 season. Ridley sometimes prefers a purple line to a precise one, and the chapter on Barnet shows how easily the outside observer can be hoodwinked, but the book tests the waters of English football superbly.

SYDNEY FRISKIN

DAVID Whitaker's latest book — *The Hockey Workshop* (Crowood Press, £18.99) — could not have made a more timely appearance, almost coinciding with his return as Great Britain's coach four years after he had guided the men's team to its Olympic triumph in Seoul. Much useful information on the changing face of hockey has been gathered since then.

Written in an easy and yet authoritative style, the book, profusely illustrated in colour and black and white, deals adequately with tactics and techniques, and outlines the factors contributing to efficiency in hockey's workshop: it is a masterpiece from a master tactician.

JOHN GOODBODY

THE most compelling sports book published this year must be *Haunts of the Black Masses: The Swimmer As Hero* by Charles Sprague (Cape, £14.99). More than a social and cultural history of swimming, it sets the activity within society. It is little wonder that the book has been extensively reviewed on the literary pages, since it transcends sport — something that sadly remains a rarity among sports books.

SHIKUMAR SEN

MUHAMMAD Ali is usually remembered these days as a

round-faced, slow-moving, barely audible, gentle giant suffering from Parkinson's syndrome. What was the Greatest like when he ruled the world? The brilliant photographs of Neil Leifer bring it all back in *Muhammad Ali: Memories*, a stunning coffee table-sized book by Rizzoli International Publications (£17.95).

The text is by the best-selling author, Thomas Hauser. "There's no way words alone can capture Ali's appearance, so it's fortunate that he's probably the most photographed person ever." Leifer's pictures take you right there, to Ali's training camps, ring-side for his greatest bouts, into his home to catch rare moments with his family. You remember what a special man he was.

DAVID MILLER

IT IS difficult to convey to anyone under 30 how football used to be. In *The Sixties Revisited* (Queen Anne, £14.95), Jimmy Greaves, who created fantasies alongside and against such supreme artists as Alex Young, Jimmy McIlroy, George Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton, attempts to recapture something of his era.

Greaves's pen, guided by Norman Giller, may not be one quarter as deft as were those magical feet, but the book is a valued piece of nostalgia. Greaves is recalling the days when there were a dozen such as John Barnes or Paul Gascoigne in the first division. Youngsters with an eye or ear for the game should have this on their shelf.

More literary, and important in a different way, is Dr John Lucas's *Future of the Olympic Games* (Human Kinetics, £23.50): an academic analysis of the ways in which the Olympic movement, under such heavy criticism, can survive in the commercialism of the 21st Century. Lucas's careful study, splendidly researched, is a sharp poke in the eye for cynics who can find no remaining joy in the games.

Gowers will carry the main hope of English success

BY RICHARD EATON

GILLIAN Gowers fancies her chances to do well in two events in the Rothmans world grand prix finals starting in Kuala Lumpur today. Gowers, one of four English players taking part, believes she can prosper in both the mixed and women's doubles.

Gowers and Gill Clark, England's most successful doubles partnership of the past seven years, were reunited only a few weeks ago after an 18-month break, yet still acquired enough points to qualify for a group containing Indonesia's Rosiana Tendean and Erma Susilastingsih, whom they beat on the opening day of the Olympic tournament, and the European champions, Christine Magnusson, and Lim Xiaoping, against whom they held a match point in the Uber Cup finals in the same Negara stadium.

Gowers and Jan Paulsen.

her partner in the mixed doubles, were runners-up in the World Cup in Guangzhou in August and should do well, even though Thomas Lund and Pernille Dupont, of Denmark, will be firm favourites to retain the title.

Darren Hall will not be without hopes in the men's singles, either, particularly if he can reproduce the wonderful form that made him, in October, the first English winner of the Danish Open in 50 years. He has in his group Liu Jun, of China, the All-England champion, and two Indonesians, Joko Suprianto, the World Cup winner, and Irfanman Susanto, the Olympic bronze medal winner.

The English quartet is completed by the national champion, Anders Nielsen, who became a lucky qualifier when the world champion, Zhao Jianhua, withdrew.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 36

PASSER

(a) US colloquial dialect variant for parcel, also parcel, parcel. "Used to some extent by all classes, but principally by the uneducated, to mean a parcel, not in the sense of a small bundle or a small quantity, but in that of a considerable mass; as, 'There was a whole parcel in the yard'; i.e. there were a good many; The word has, perhaps, a somewhat larger meaning than a good many, but denotes less than a multitude."

RESPONANT

(b) A patient dependent upon a mechanical respirator to maintain breathing, an irregular formation from respirator + Greek *ant* a sailor. "Responants don't have to be chained to their apparatus in a hospital ward."

PULUT

(a) In Malaysia, glutinous rice, from the Malay (padi) glutinous rice. "Our children love to eat in the mornings before school. With plain rice, it's a long time to eat." Pulut is never used as bread, but commonly prepared as a sweetmeat.

BINANT

(a) A half of a circle or circular body, bin + ant as in quadrant. "After the Cold War, still more sensitive electrometers were designed; for example, a binant electrometer of high sensitivity by Hoffman."

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Fitzsimmons: trained as a bare-knuckle fighter

British boxer who ruled the Wild West

Bob Fitzsimmons, Lennox Lewis's only British predecessor as world heavyweight boxing champion, was the first man to hold world titles at three weights, in an era far removed from the multi-million dollar purses and television deals that dominate the fight-game today.

Fitzsimmons began his colourful career in the 1870s as a bare-knuckle fighter in New Zealand and, at its peak, when he also held the middleweight and light-heavyweight titles, he came into contact with some of the legendary figures of the American Wild West.

Born in 1862, in Helston, Cornwall, the son of a blacksmith was taken as a child to New Zealand and was never to return to the country of his birth. He was introduced to boxing by the bare-knuckle master, Jem Mace, and then stowed away to Australia to find further boxing opportunities. He switched there to gloves and Queensberry Rules before, like almost all aspiring boxers since, seeking

same and fortune in the United States.

Spurred initially by taunts of "bald-headed kangaroo", Fitzsimmons quickly made an impact and secured his first world title in 1891, when he defeated the famous middleweight, Jack Dempsey, in New Orleans.

Although weighing less than 12 stone (Lewis's fighting weight is over 16 stone), Fitzsimmons was never troubled about conceding weight to his opponents. Having proved his superiority among the middleweights, he moved up in 1894 to the ranks of the heavyweights, where "Gentleman Jim" Corbett reigned.

As with Bowe and Lewis, little love was apparently lost between Corbett and Fitzsimmons, and it was three years before Corbett met the Englishman, who was by now an American citizen.

Fitzsimmons's career, indeed his liberty, had in the meantime been under threat, for he was charged with first-degree manslaughter and faced a 20-year prison sen-

Marcus Williams examines the extraordinary career of Bob Fitzsimmons, once disqualified at gunpoint by Wyatt Earp and the only previous British world heavyweight boxing champion

tence when an opponent died after an exhibition contest. Medical evidence that the death of the man, who had for years been a heavy drinker, was caused by apoplexy and not by the effects of a punch, brought his acquittal.

Four months later, Fitzsimmons was arrested again, this time on his way to challenge Corbett for the world heavyweight title. The governor of Arkansas said that Fitzsimmons was in breach of state laws in attempting to fight Corbett, called Fitzsimmons a dunderhead for getting caught and promptly announced his retirement from the ring.

Unusually, Corbett named his successor, Peter Maher, an Irishman whom Fitzsimmons had previously beaten. Fitzsimmons and

Maher met again, in a bout not generally accepted as being for the world championship, and though Fitzsimmons had no trouble in the ring, knocking Maher out in the first round, there were all kinds of shenanigans outside.

The match had been arranged to take place in Langtry, Texas, but when the boxers arrived, they found a posse of Texas Rangers armed with orders to stop them proceeding. It required the intervention and ingenuity of the famous lawman, Judge Roy Bean, to ensure that they could go ahead. Bean arranged for a ring to be erected just across the Mexican border; boxers, officials and spectators trooped across a pontoon bridge over the Rio Grande,

and the marshal of Dodge City stood on guard, six guns drawn, to keep trouble-makers at bay.

The bout was swiftly over and Fitzsimmons's manager was lauding his man's achievements from the ring when the pontoon bridge started to collapse. Fitzsimmons led the scramble back to safety in Texas — all this for a minute's boxing!

After being disqualified for a low punch in a subsequent contest refereed by Wyatt Earp, who ordered him from the ring at gunpoint when he tried to protest, Fitzsimmons eventually met Corbett on St Patrick's day, 1897, in Carson City, Nevada. It was the only state that would sanction the match, for which Corbett had come out of retirement to teach a lesson to "an over-rated nobody".

For six rounds, Corbett gave his challenger a lesson, getting through his guard and knocking him down for a count of nine, but the tide turned thereafter, as Fitzsimmons altered his tactics and a flow of body

punches sapped Corbett's strength.

At the start of the fourteenth round, Fitzsimmons's wife shouted: "Hit him in the slats [ribs]!" Heeding the advice, he threw a left hand to Corbett's solar plexus that knocked all the stuffing out of him, and he failed to get off his knees to beat the count.

Fitzsimmons took to the road with a touring show and was not in the best condition when he defended his title at Coney Island in June 1899. He was knocked out in the eleventh round by James J. Jeffries, 13 years his junior and more than four stones heavier, and he lost in eight rounds during a return-match three years later.

Undaunted, however, Fitzsimmons won the newly-created light-heavyweight title in 1903, before finally retiring from the ring in 1914. He died three years later in Chicago. Many Britons have since challenged for the world heavyweight championship, but until this week, the man from Cornwall stood alone as its holder.

Defeat in Turkey could end Dutch hopes of qualifying for the World Cup finals

Holland risk all on Gullit's return to international duty

FROM STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN ISTANBUL

HOLLAND, as they approach the most significant crossroads in their recent history, have come to an appropriate location. Here on the banks of the Bosphorus, the river which divides Europe and Asia, their future will this evening be determined.

If they lose to Turkey, they themselves recognise that their hopes of reaching the 1994 World Cup finals will have been all but extinguished. The team which captured the European title so gloriously in Germany four years ago will start to be dismantled.

If they win, they will regain their stature as one of the favourites to qualify from England's group. The Dutch football association expects no less. Johann Cruyff has already been persuaded to take over from Dick Advocaat, the manager, in the United States in two years.

Yet the Dutch have gained one point and even that was hard-earned. Having opened their campaign with a humbling defeat in Norway, they then found themselves 2-0 down at home to Poland. They recovered to draw but, according to Advocaat, they are still teetering on the brink.

"Unless we win," he declared, "it is all over for us." The melodramatic statement was timed to precede the

theatrical reappearance of Ruud Gullit. For the sake of his country, the controversial figure is about to step out of both self-imposed international retirement and the Milanese shadows.

Gullit, objecting to the defensive role he was asked to fill during last summer's European championship, refused to play in the first two World Cup qualifying ties. In spite of completing only four games for AC Milan this season, he has been restored on the right side of the attack.

"If he is sharp and in form," Advocaat explained, "we need him more than ever." The case is not understated. The Dutch are without the injured Bergkamp and the prolific van Basten, the most complete centre forward in the world, is also doubtful.

Although Gullit claims that he has retained all of his admirable qualities in spite of undergoing several knee operations, he insists that he "needs to play to find my rhythm". Advocaat, therefore, is taking the same risk as Graham Taylor, England's manager, who recalled the equally rusty Paul Gascoigne against Norway in October. Taylor has travelled to see for himself whether the gamble pays off and to review forthcoming opponents, England,

who beat the Turks 4-0 at Wembley last month, are scheduled to come here at the end of March and to meet the Dutch at home a month later.

By then, Holland promise to be either ominously gathering impetus or in the process of rebuilding. Their destiny is likely to be entwined with Gullit's. If they are no longer in contention, he is set to follow the route pursued by Gary Lineker and head for Japan. If Holland are still challenging for one of the two qualifying places, he will stay in Europe, though almost certainly not with AC Milan, where he feels under-employed. He has expressed a desire to join Real Madrid.

Gullit is not the only worry for Advocaat. As is often the case with the Dutch, for all their ability in the outfield positions, doubts remain about the goalkeeping berth. Holland's coach was keeping silent over the choice between Stanley Menzo, of Ajax, newly-recovered from a broken thumb and the more consistent, if less gifted, Ed de Goey, of Feyenoord.

TURKEY: Hayrettin Demirel; Riza Cakir; Bulent Korkmaz; Recep Celen; Gokhan Keskin; Turker Karaman; Ozgur Celen; Orhan Guler; Fikret Isik; Hakan Mandirli; Feyyaz Ucar.

HOLLAND (probable): S. Menzo or E. de Goey; S. Blom; R. Koeman; W. Jong; F. de Boer; F. Rijseveld; J. Wouters; R. Walschuis; R. Gullit; M. van Basten; P. van Vossen.



Back where he belongs: Gullit has returned to international football

Cash worries haunt Brighton in Cup

BRIGHTON face the prospect of being wound up before arriving at Kingfield for their FA Cup second-round replay with non-League Woking tonight (Louise Taylor writes). The second division club, and 1983 FA Cup finalists, are due in the High Court after failing to pay a PAYE demand from the Inland Revenue.

The south coast side is £3 million in debt and its board is split on whether to accept a £4 million offer from developers Wynne to buy the Goldstone Ground. Barry Lloyd, the Brighton managing director, hopes the club can secure its future by receiving planning permission to move to a site on the outskirts of Hove, where it plans to build a £23 million stadium.

Against Woking, a GM Vauxhall Conference side which reached the fourth round two years ago, Brighton are without their defender, Steve Foster.

The Surrey side — which beat West Bromwich Albion in the third round two years ago — has six players requiring late tests, including Trevor Senior and David Puckett, but Tim Buzaglo will play.

Another side from the Conference, Yeovil, hopes to collect their sixteenth League scalp from a second-round replay at Hereford United with the victors at home to Arsenal. Cheltenham, of the Beazer Homes League, know that a win in their replay at Bourne-mouth would guarantee a trip to Blackburn Rovers.

Coventry make Quinn move permanent

BY CHRIS MOORE

COVENTRY City, needing a change in fortune to revive their Premier League ambitions, left nothing to chance yesterday by making permanent the signing of the Newcastle United forward, Mick Quinn, for £250,000.

Quinn's loan spell at Highfield Road was not due to expire until after this weekend's league game with Liverpool, but, after an impressive scoring burst of six goals in his first four games, Bobby Gould, the Coventry manager, was anxious to get the deal signed and sealed in case Quinn was tempted away by another offer.

"His goalscoring record for us so far has been little short of phenomenal," Gould said yesterday. "Now that we've got him permanently I can only

hope he will continue in this rich vein of form."

Quinn, 30, scored twice on his Highfield Road debut against Manchester City, and hit another brace against Southampton at The Dell last Saturday. In between, he was on target in Coventry's 1-1 draw at Sheffield United and the 2-2 draw with Ipswich Town. Nevertheless, despite scoring in all four games he has played in and establishing himself as the club's leading scorer so far this season, Quinn has still to finish in a winning Coventry side.

Malcolm Allison is almost certain to remain in control of Bristol Rovers until the end of the season after Rovers extended their unbeaten run to four matches with a 4-0 victory over Bristol City on Sunday.

"Malcolm's current contract is for three months and there

is an option to take us to the end of the season," the club's vice-chairman, Geoff Dunford, said yesterday. "I am sure that will happen, and we will talk about the long term future after that." Allison, 65, went to Rovers six weeks ago as a consultant coach to Dennis Rofe with the club struggling at the foot of the table. Within a week, Rofe departed.

The West Ham United assistant manager, Harry Redknapp, will not face police charges after being accused of making obscene gestures to supporters during the club's 5-1 win at Bristol City in September. A report has, however, been sent by Bristol police to the Football Association.

Liam Brady, the Celtic manager, was yesterday fined £500 and given a three-month dog-

out ban for his part in an altercation with coaching staff of Aberdeen during a league match at Parkhead in October. Aberdeen's assistant manager, John McVeigh, and coach, John Binnie, received the same punishment from the Scottish FA.

The UEFA Cup holders, Ajax, were handed the ideal draw in their attempt to retain the trophy when they were drawn against Amsterc, of France, yesterday in the tournament's quarter-finals.

UEFA Cup quarter-final draw: Real Madrid v Paris St Germain; AS Roma v Borussia Dortmund; Benfica v Deportivo Alaves; Ajax v Amsterc.

Match No. 32 on Saturday's pools coupon, Macclesfield v Gainshead, is being played at Gainshead, although for pools purposes Macclesfield will be regarded as the home team.

SKIING

Inspired Bianchi pushes Tomba into second place

Madonna di Campiglio, Italy: Patrice Bianchi, of France, edged out the local favourite, Alberto Tomba, to win the World Cup slalom here yesterday. Bianchi pulled up from fifth after the first leg to relegate the Italian to second place in a time of 1min 35.12sec.

Tomba, the World Cup champion, had an aggregate time of 1min 35.23sec on the Canale Miramonti piste to finish ahead of the Austrian, Thomas Sykora.

Skiing on a course set by his own coach, Bianchi went for everything on the second leg. He almost fell on the lower part but recovered his balance to clock an impressive time of 49.88sec for the 59-gate run and clinch the second World Cup win of his career.

The result was a disappointment for a noisy crowd of about 15,000 who had come in the hope of seeing Tomba triumph in the last men's race scheduled for Italy this season. However, the 80 points Tomba collected for second place lifted him to the top of the overall World Cup positions.

The Italian, on 256 points.

leap-frogged Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg, who is aiming for a record fifth overall title. Girardelli, winner of a giant slalom in the Italian resort of Alta Badia on Sunday, has 247 points after finishing twentieth. The defending World Cup champion, Paul Accola, also had a disappointing day, finishing seventeenth.

Hubert Strolz, of Austria, the first man on the snow, set a blistering first-leg time of 44.34sec. But his joy was short-lived, for the race jury ruled he had straddled one of the early gates and disqualified him.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen, in Germany, will host the men's World Cup downhill race called off in Val d'Isere, on December 4 because of high winds. It will be held on January 8.

RESULTS: Men's slalom: 1. P. Bianchi (Fr), 1min 35.12sec; 2. A. Tomba (It), 1:35.23; 3. T. Sykora (Austria), 1:35.40; 4. P. Staud (Swi), 1:35.49; 5. G. Kuenz (Swi), 1:35.61; 6. T. Foglia (Austria), 1:35.64; 7. L. Kue (Fr), 1:35.85; 8. B. Girardelli (Lux), 1:36.01; 9. J. Strolz (Austria), 1:36.15; 10. D. Accola (Fr), 1:36.18. Slalom overall: 1. Tomba, 159 pts; 2. S. Sykora, 139; 3. B. Girardelli, 140; 4. H. Strolz (Austria), 120; 5. Tomba, 115. World Cup overall: 1. Tomba, 256; 2. M. Girardelli, 247; 3. J. Strolz (Austria), 167; 4. W. Bessis (Swi), 150; 5. Sykora, 160; 6. L. Stock (Austria), 152.

YACHTING

Safety first after a radar failure

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

RICHARD Merriweather and his crew on Commercial Union stole the lead in the British Steel Challenge race ahead of John Chittenden's Nuclear Electric in the Southern Ocean yesterday.

As dawn broke, the crew on Pride of Teesside, skippered by Ian MacGillivray, had been forced to head due north out of the iceberg zone after their radar failed. This sudden diversion, which will add at least 400 miles to their course, has already cost the crew three places.

In a message back to the race organisers, MacGillivray said: "It's disappointing, but I feel this is necessary for the safety of the crew and the yacht." Experts back in Britain are now working to isolate the problem in the hope of getting the Teesside crew back on track later in the week.

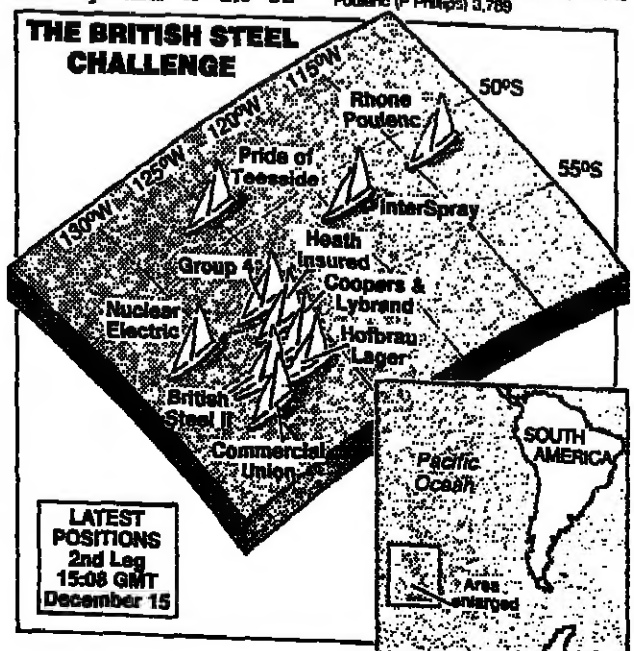
The Nuclear Electric crew, which has led this second stage of the race for the past three weeks, has held a course almost parallel to the 52°

South way-point each yacht has had to round midway between Cape Horn and Tasmania, while their closest rivals have tacked south on a shorter but colder route to Hobart.

Richard Tudor, the skipper of British Steel II, which also slipped ahead of Nuclear Electric yesterday, reported: "We are experiencing 50 knot headwinds and huge seas. We are really taking a pounding, but holding things together. We are on edge while in iceberg territory."

"There is maximum vigilance with three crew on the freezing deck acting as watch-outs and two more below watching the radar. The time for sleep is getting short with so much to do."

LEADING POSITIONS (at 15:00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Hobart): 1. Commercial Union (R Merriweather), 3,109 miles; 2. British Steel II (R Tudor), 3,138; 3. Nuclear Electric (J Chittenden), 3,140; 4. Hobart Laser (D Good), 3,175; 5. Cooper's (S Lybrand (V Chany), 3,225; 6. Main Saurat (A Gooding), 3,207; 7. Group 4 Teesside (I MacGillivray), 3,400; 8. Interpace (P Joffe), 3,672; 9. Rhone-Poulenc (P Pringle), 3,728.



International centre opens

British tennis administrators put the latest piece of their development jigsaw in place yesterday when they unveiled a new training complex at Queen's Club. The £2 million Celtic International Training Centre includes two indoor courts, a gym and fitness rooms.

Richard Lewis, the director of national training, said: "This is the most valuable asset which represents a vital element in the programme to make it possible for our players to compete at the highest level."

Henley profit

Rowing: The cost of staging Henley Royal Regatta exceeded £1 million for the first time in 1992 but, in spite of the economic climate and wet weather during regatta week, the stewards yesterday announced a net profit of £162,244 for the year. The Stewards' Charitable Trust, set up in 1988, provided £66,000 towards junior rowing in 1992.

Raiders out

American football: Miami Dolphins beat the Los Angeles Raiders 20-7 to eliminate the Raiders from contention for the National Football League playoffs.

PPA Fixture List for the 2nd January 1993			
LITTLEWOODS VERNONS ZETTERS			
1 Aston Villa	Bristol R.	16 Bradford C.	Mansfield
2 Brentford	Grimsby	17 Chester	Leyton O.
3 Cambridge U.	Sheff. Wed.	18 Torquay	Scarboro
4 Derby	Stockport	19 York	Carlisle
5 Leeds	Charlton	20 Basingst.	Don't name & R.
6 Luton	Barnsley	21 Gateshead	Shefford
7 Luton	Bristol C.	22 Kettering	Telford
8 New City	Rushington	23 Merthyr T.	Kid'minster
9 Newcastle	Port Vale	24 Runcorn	Altrincham
10 Norwich	Coventry	25 Shalford	Northwich
11 Notts. C.	Sunderland	26 Witton A.	Macclesfield
12 Oldham	Tranmere	27 Accrington	Mossbourne
13 Southend	Millwall	28 Charlton	Frickley A.
14 Watford	Wolves	29 Droydsden	Colewyn Bay
15 Wimbledon	Exeter	30 Exeter	Gainsboro
31 Bole	Bishop Auckland	46 Ayr	Kilmarnock
32 Haverhill	Southend	47 Clydebank	Dumfries
33 Leek	Whitby Bay	48 Greenock	Greenock
34 Walsford	Barnsley	49 Dumbarton	Partick
35 Bognor R.	Staveley	50 Morton	S. Wilson
36 Carlisle	Aylesbury	51 Stirling A.	Hamilton
37 Chesham Utd.	Headon	52 Alton	East Fife
38 Carlisle	Widnes	53 Arbroath	Forfar
39 Grays	Bromley	54 Berwick	Stirling Albion
40 Aberdeen	Dundee	55 Clyde	E. Stirling
41 Altrincham	Falkirk	56 Montrose	Brechin
42 Dundee U.	S. Johnstone	57 O. of South	Stranraer
43 Hibernian	Hearts	58 Queens F.	Albion R.
44 Partick	Westhumble		
45 Rangers	Celtic		

COMP 23

FOR GUIDANCE ONLY NOT ACCEPTABLE AS AN ENTRY

BBC1

- 6.00 **Cee-fax** (58158)
 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (409747)
 8.05 **Kilroy**. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (2821448) 9.45 **Rose King**. Game show with members of the cast and audience from the pantomime at Hawth Theatre, Crawley (s) (8733142)
 10.00 **News**, regional news and weather (3845448) 10.05 **Playdays**. For the very young (s) (9171581)
 10.30 **Good Morning...with Anne and Nick**. Magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. Today's edition includes a romantic story, consumer affairs and Claire Rayner's and weather. With *News* (Cee-fax), regional news and weather (s) (9171581) and 12.00 (48704516)
 12.15 **Pebble Mill**. Alan Titchmarsh is joined by actress Britt Eklund (s) (8449500) 12.55 **Regional News and Weather** (5553158)
 1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Heydon (s) (21094516) 1.30 **Neighbours**. (Cee-fax) (s) (21094516) 1.50 **Eldorado** (s) (Cee-fax) (s) (3726187)
 2.20 **Starsky and Hutch**. The two policemen go undercover as stuntmen when investigating a series of mysterious deaths among a group of actors (s) (6918149) 3.10 **Prisoners of Conscience**. A Christmas special includes guests Janet Brown, the BBC Big Band and Desmond Morris who talks about the meaning of Christmas traditions (7271013)
 3.50 **Dooby Duck's Euro Tour** (s) (8382167) 3.55 **Radio Roo**. Episode 11 of the 13-part comedy drama (s) (s) (5019055) 4.10 **The New Yogi Berra Show** (s) (7144780) 4.20 **Wait on Earth**. Children's drama series (s) (2042993) 4.35 **Ipsa Facto**. In the last of the series teenagers Lizz Brown and Tara Simpson explore how colour influences people's lives (s) (5774871)
 5.00 **Newsround** (8732041) 5.05 **Grange Hill**. Secondary school drama series (s) (Cee-fax) (s) (7557089)
 5.35 **Neighbours** (s) (Cee-fax) (s) (278968) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Chris Lowe. (Cee-fax) (s) (553)
 6.30 **Regional News Magazines** (887). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
 7.00 **Eldorado**. (Cee-fax) (s) (5603)
 7.30 **Tomorrow's World**. Kate Bellingham reports from Coventry on new finds in a quarry that are changing people's minds about when the first people arrived in Britain; and Judith Hann is in Thailand to see how the city of Bangkok copes with the ever-present threat of flooding. (Cee-fax) (s) (871)
 8.00 **The Two Ronnies**. Messrs Corbett and Barker are joined by singer Stephanie Lawrence and actress Maggie Hinde (s) (Cee-fax) (253177)
 8.50 **Points of View** presented by Anne Robinson (s) (370988)
 9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (7552)

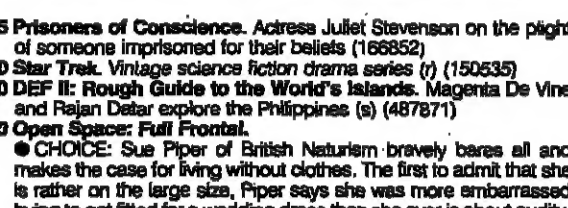


Career moves: Helen Slater and Michael J. Fox (3.30pm)

- 9.30 **Film: The Secret of My Success** (1987) starring Michael J. Fox and Helen Slater. Likable but over-long comedy about a naive but bright young man from the sticks who hustles his way up the corporate ladder in big business New York. Directed by Herbert Ross. (Cee-fax) (s) (395236)
 11.20 **International Showjumping** from the Grand Hall, Olympia, featuring the Modern Security Systems Christmas Turkey stakes (s) (204803)
 12.00 **Weather** (5561746). Ends at 12.15
 2.15 **BBC Select: Accusations**. Television. Screenplay (538433). Ends at 3.15 4.00 **TV Edit** - Deutschland Heute 5. Screenplay (591006). Ends at 4.50

BBC2

- 8.00 **Breakfast News** (5084784) 8.15 **Westminster** (5183871)
 9.00 **Film: The Inside Story** (1988). b/w starring William Linn and Charles Winkler. Warm-hearted tale of two young men during the Depression, a stolen \$1,000 is put to good use in a small Vermont town before being returned to its rightful owner the next day. Directed by Allan Dwan (6188719)
 10.25 **Film: No Men of Her Own** (1950). b/w starring Barbara Stanwyck and John Lund. Turbulent melodrama of a pregnant woman who assumes another's identity and is then blackmailed by her former lover. Directed by Mitchell Leisen (7297806)
 12.00 **Look Stranger**. Derek and Jacqui Tansley explain why they went to live in a derelict Cornish cliff-top cottage (s) (2689245)
 12.20 **The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures**. Dr Richard Dawkins suggests that Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection was the greatest idea to occur to the human mind (s) (2972245)
 1.20 **Greenclaws** (s) (40112142) 1.35 **Another War, Another Peace**. Life in the 1940s and 1950s (37355294)
 2.00 **News and Weather** (8122245) 2.05 **A Wood For The Trees**. Orzelska Forest, Cumbria (44403993) 2.35 **Country File** (s) (971503)
 3.00 **News** (Cee-fax) and weather (7550142) 3.05 **Westminster Live** (5710055) 3.50 **News** (Cee-fax), regional news and weather (5710055) 4.00 **Catchword** (s) (500)
 4.30 **Behind the Headlines**. Linda Agran asks if there is a scientific basis to astrology (784)
 5.00 **International Showjumping** from Olympia (s) (8451)
 5.30 **Landscapes of England**. The Black Country (s) (277239)



Standing up for human rights: Juliet Stevenson (5.55pm)

- 5.55 **Prisoners of Conscience**. Actress Juliet Stevenson on the plight of someone imprisoned for political beliefs (168552)
 6.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** science fiction series (s) (1505335)
 6.50 **DEF II: Rough Guide to the World's Islands**. Magenta De Vine and Rajan Datar explore the Philippines (s) (487871)
 7.40 **Open Space: Full Frontal**.
 ● **CHOICE**: Sue Piper of British Naturalism bravely bares all and makes the case for living without clothes. The first to admit that she is neither on the large side, Piper says she was more embarrassed trying to get fitted for a wedding dress than she ever is about nudity. Her argument, supported by fellow naturists also willing to face the camera in the raw, is that the birthday suit is not only an escape from the materialism of modern life but a social leveller. Along the way the film offers a visit to one of the first naturist clubs in Britain, a sideways glance at *Health and Efficiency* magazine and memories of a nudist camp classic of the 1950s, *Collected*, aptly titled *Travelling Light*. Piper's honest and skilful advocacy will do much to rescue the subject from the sniggers but whether it will win converts is another matter. (Cee-fax) (s) (554983)
 8.10 **Bookman: Serbian Epics**.
 ● **CHOICE**: As the warring factions pick over the remains of the former Yugoslavia, the Serbs continue to be cast as the principal villains. This film, which concentrates on Serbian history and culture, tries to restore the balance. At times it is almost a party broadcast for the Serbian party. There is no reason why the Serb case should not be given but as presented here it tends to project the nation's which has been temporarily interrupted by some awkward Muslims. In any case this is a puzzling programme for a so devoted to literature. Admittedly the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Dr Radovan Karadzic, is a paragon of evil, but the film's *Terry Venables*. But we hear much more about Serbia's military feats than we do about its writers (240803)
 9.00 **Withcraft**. The concluding episode of Nigel Williams's period thriller starring Peter McEnery and Alan Howard (s) (2351)
 11.15 **Prisoners of Conscience**. Shown at 5.55 (153500)
 11.20 **Self Exposure: Looked Up Time** (s). Film director Shirley Schorstein returns to television to confront the nameless persecutors who looked her up for asking for an exit visa (268837)
 12.55 **Behind the Headlines** (s) (507307) 1.25 **Weather** (547494)

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** (5595535)
 9.25 **Keynotes**. Music game hosted by Alistair Dival (8808142) 9.55 **Thames News** (820452)
 10.00 **Film: The Undergrad** (1985) starring Art Carney and Chris Makepeace. A bland Disney comedy adventure about a 68-year-old man who enrolls with his grandson at their local university. Directed by Steven Hilliard Stern (57367239) 11.55 **Regional News** (569790)
 12.00 **Cartoon Time** (1411332) 12.10 **Altozote**. Children's entertainment (s) (6109055)
 12.30 **ITN Lunchtime News** with Dermot Mulroney and Sonia Rusler. (Cee-fax) (1123448) 1.05 **Regional News** (40200351)
 1.15 **Home and Away**. Australian family drama. (Cee-fax) (406697) 1.45 **A Country Practice**. Medical drama series set in an Australian outback town (s) (494968)
 2.15 **Graham Kerr**. The chef prepares a New Zealand version of English Christmas pudding (582177) 2.45 **Take the High Road**. Highlands-based drama series (5691413)
 3.10 **ITN News** headlines (7641448) 3.15 **Regional News** (7640719) 3.20 **The Young Doctors**. Drama series set in an Australian city hospital (5408822)
 3.50 **Cartoon** (1814345) 3.55 **Rupert the Bear**. Animation (5829429) 4.20 **Grange Hill**. Drama series starring Carl Lee Scott as the wicked witch (2955143) 4.40 **The Tomorrow People**. Last episode of the science fiction drama. (Cee-fax) (8676968)
 5.10 **Famous People**. Famous Places. Quiz game presented by William G. Stewart (1353626)
 5.40 **Early Evening News** with John Suchet. (Cee-fax) (243887)
 6.00 **Home and Away** (s) (Cee-fax) (503)
 6.30 **Thames News** (555)
 7.00 **This is Your Life**. Michael Aspel springs an emotional surprise on another unsuspecting worthy (s) (7871)
 7.30 **Coronation Street**. (Cee-fax) (239)



A 30-year career in show business: Neil Diamond (8.00pm)

- 8.00 **Des O'Connor Tonight**. The entertainer is joined by singer/songwriter Neil Diamond, actor Ian McShane, pop star Lisa Stansfield and comedians Jarrin and Tony Hawks (s) (2245)
 9.00 **Prime Suspect 2**. The concluding part of the award-winning police drama starring Helen Mirren as a detective chief inspector in charge of a complex murder enquiry. Continues after the news. (Cee-fax) (5681)
 10.00 **News at Ten** with Trevor McDonald and Julia Somerville. (Cee-fax) (22055) 10.30 **Regional News** (458887)
 10.40 **Prime Suspect 2** continued (544968)
 11.40 **The Royal Film Performance**. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend a showing of Sir Richard Attenborough's *Chaplin*, at the Odeon, Leicester Square (706167)
 12.15 **Home and Away**. Showbusiness gossip (52727)
 12.45 **Film: Embassy** (1985) starring Nick Mancuso, El Wallach and Mimi Rogers. A made-for-television pilot for a spy thriller series about the trials and tribulations of the deputy chief of the American embassy in Rome. Directed by Robert Michael Lewis (198475)
 2.30 **Mitred Hisscock Presents: The Initiation**. A tale with a twist (s) (5551058)
 2.50 **America's Top Ten** presented by Richard Blade (s) (8491746)
 3.15 **Videofashion**. The latest newswear (40835611)
 3.40 **Quiz Night**. Inter club and club competition (82061730)
 4.10 **Grand Ole Opry**. Country and western music from Nashville, Tennessee (s) (60474307)
 4.40 **Fifty Years On** (s). Vintage newscasts (8224888)
 5.00 **Thames** is a crowd. American comedy sequel to *Thames's Company*, starring John Ralston (53982)
 5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Tim Neilson (74366). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Cartoons** (20158) 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (94887)
 9.25 **You Say Your Life**. Game show hosted by Bill Cosby (s) (6803897)
 9.55 **Film: Strike Up the Pink** (1936). b/w starring Eddie Cantor and Ethel Merman. Musical comedy about a third tailor who undergoes a change of personality and takes over the management of an amusement park. Directed by Norman Taurog (57347581)
 11.10 **Table Tennis**. An exotic view of a professional match (3421516)
 11.30 **Credo**. The Dutch Chief Rabbi Abraham Soetendorp on the revival of liberal Judaism in his country (1065)
 12.00 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Anne Perkins (2968)
 12.30 **Sessame Street**. Early-learning series (72429) 1.30 **Euroeka's Castle**. Children's entertainment (s) (36780)



Rounding-up a flock of admirers: Google Withers (2.00pm)

- 2.00 **Film: The Loves of Joanna Godden** (1947). b/w starring Google Withers and John McCusker. Eating drama set at the turn of the century about a young woman who inherits a shop on farm on Romney Marsh. Screenplay by H.E. Bates, based on the novel by Sheila Kay-Smith and directed by Charles Frend (977333)
 3.40 **The Three Stooges in Fiddlers Three** (1947). b/w (5831264)
 4.30 **Family Pride**. Last in the drama series (s) (968)
 4.50 **Film: To One**. Fast-moving knock-out quiz show (s) (852)
 5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show**. The guests are members of families who have not seen each other for years (s) (8472069)
 5.55 **The Magic Roundabout** narrated by Nigel Planer (s) (254448)
 6.00 **Treasure Hunt** in Switzerland (s). (Teletext) (49210)
 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zarah Badawi. (Teletext) (589551) 7.50 **Comment** from George O'Neill, wrongly accused of sexually abusing his daughters three times (155835)
 8.00 **Brookside**. Merseyside soap (7031)
 8.30 **Travelogue**. Pete McCarthy stays in the King's Apartment at Hampton Court Palace; Simon Hoggart is in Devon; and Robert Elms samples the delights of Prague (3528)
 9.00 **Dispatches**.
 ● **CHOICE**: In a report calculated to make us feel good about gorging ourselves during the festive season, *Dispatches* investigates the diet industry and suggests that dieting can often be bad. It makes the startling claim that as many as 95 per cent of diets fail in the long term. More than that, there is evidence of an increased risk of heart disease among those who diet, put on weight and then diet again. David Garner, a professor of psychology, declares: "There are almost no boundaries to the dieting industry's claims, but almost all are baloney." Which does not prevent a booming market in books and videos about dieting and supposedly weight-reducing foods. The film also reveals a significant increase in dieting among children, even as young as ten. But former dieters say trying to take off pounds only made them miserable (107245)
 9.45 **Short and Curious: Dear Rosie** (b/w). The story of a writer who is a reluctant success in the diet-book world (s) (592574)
 10.00 **The Golden Girls**. More comedy from the Miami matrons. (Teletext) (s) (20937)
 10.30 **Hale and Pace**. Last in the comedy series (s) (53585)
 11.00 **The Prisoner**. Cut drama series (s). (Teletext) (32121)
 12.00 **Pallas**. Episode two of the five-part soap (s) (s) (1688814)
 12.15 **Film: The Steve Allen Show** (b/w). The guests are Red Skelton, Jerry Lewis and Boke Chazoff (50368)
 12.45 **The Best of the World**. More cringe-making moments from American film and television (s) (42340)
 1.15 **Film: Rotti Kapala** (1974). Hindi drama starring and directed by Manoj Kumar (58431814). Ends at 4.15

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus™ handset. VideoPlus™ can be used with most video. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0800 131 004 for a charged at 40p per minute plus 35p off peak or write to VideoPlus, Acorn Ltd, 5 Ivy House, Plantation Way, London SW11 2TH. VideoPlus™, VideoPlus™ and Video PlusCode are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
 As London except 5.10-5.40 Blockbusters (153500) 6.05-7.00 *Anglia News* (31448)
BORDER
 As London except 2.50-3.30 Scottish Parliamentary Question Time (700989) 8.10-8.40 *Home and Away* (153500) 9.00 *Local News* (31448) 9.10-9.40 *Home and Away* (153500) 9.50-10.20 *Local News* (31448) 10.30-11.00 *Home and Away* (153500) 11.10-11.40 *Home and Away* (153500) 11.50-12.20 *Home and Away* (153500) 12.30-1.00 *Home and Away* (153500) 1.10-1.40 *Home and Away* (153500) 1.50-2.20 *Home and Away* (153500) 2.30-3.00 *Home and Away* (153500) 3.10-3.40 *Home and Away* (153500) 3.50-4.20 *Home and Away* (153500) 4.30-5.00 *Home and Away* (153500) 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (153500) 5.50-6.20 *Home and Away* (153500) 6.30-7.00 *Home and Away* (153500) 7.10-7.40 *Home and Away* (153500) 7.50-8.20 *Home and Away* (153500) 8.30-9.00 *Home and Away* (153500) 9.10-9.40 *Home and Away* (153500) 9.50-10.20 *Home and Away* (153500) 10.30-11.00 *Home and Away* (153500) 11.10-11.40 *Home and Away* (153500) 11.50-12.20 *Home and Away* (153500) 12.30-1.00 *Home and Away* (153500) 1.10-1.40 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Champion likely to make first defence of his WBC heavyweight title against Tucker in March

London ready to stage Lewis's crowning glory

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LENNOX Lewis will be officially crowned the World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion in the first week of January, Jose Sulaiman, the body's president, said yesterday. It will be a grand affair. All the president's men from the WBC national federations will come to London to see Sulaiman give Lewis the title that the council took away from Riddick Bowe, the world champion, on Monday for refusing to defend against Lewis.

"It will be a very special occasion," Sulaiman said, "because Lewis is taking back the title another Englishman, Bob Fitzsimmons, won in 1897. We will make a big celebration."

It looks a clear case of the WBC rewarding Lewis for doing the right thing and penalising Bowe for throwing the council's belt in the dustbin (although the champion is said to have retrieved it and taken it back with him to New York on Monday) and reneging on a written undertaking he had given the world body that he would make his first defence against Lewis.

Lewis is delighted that he has been declared champion. So far as he is concerned, and many boxing people as well, he did not win the title by default. He won it in the ring when he knocked out Donovan "Razor" Ruddock in two rounds in London in November. Lewis took the bout with Ruddock after Bowe refused to meet the most feared heavyweight in the world, and decided to take the easier,

World Boxing Association, eliminator against Pierre Coetzee, of South Africa, having first signed to meet the winner of the WBC final eliminator.

Sulaiman said at the time that if Bowe or Evander Holyfield, who was champion then, failed to carry out the terms of the deal, the Lewis-Ruddock encounter would be considered a world title bout. In the event, Bowe beat Holyfield and made Lewis a less-than-fair offer of \$3 million, instead of \$8 million, and when Lewis turned that down, the champion claimed it was Lewis, and not he, who had reneged. When Lewis changed his mind over the \$3 million purse, the offer was no longer on the table.

Sulaiman said: "How can he [Bowe] say he is the world champion when he does not fight Lennox Lewis, who beat him in the Olympic Games. I feel very sad and disappointed that has made bad remarks about the WBC and myself. We were the first to make Bowe No. 1 and offer him a fight with Ruddock."

On the face of it, everything seems right and proper. In the sporting sense, justice has been done. Lewis is the beneficiary of the machinations of promoters, managers and administrators. Curiously, it has worked out well for everybody — except Lewis.

Don King, a close friend of Sulaiman, who has been out of the heavyweight scene since Evander Holyfield took the title from James "Buster" Douglas, is back in the picture. His heavyweight, Tony



Worlds apart: Lewis, left, the WBC champion, comes face to face with Nick Faldo on holiday in Jamaica yesterday as the No. 1 golfer prepares for a tournament there

Tucker, is No. 1 WBC contender. Lewis must face him first. The Main Event promotions group, which has two options on Lewis and three on Bowe, is not worried about Lewis beating Bowe and reducing its world title options to one. Now the group has interests in five world title

bouts and could have a finger in a sixth, the unifier in 1994. Meanwhile, Bowe can cash in on easy defences. The only loser might be Lewis, the man who has behaved in an exemplary fashion throughout — set his goals and achieved them without using titles as bargaining

chips. If he meets Tucker in March, the bout will be in Las Vegas. Tucker, a former champion who took Mike Tyson the distance, is experienced and tough and even though Lewis should beat him as clearly as he is capable of beating anyone in the top ten, he might find it difficult

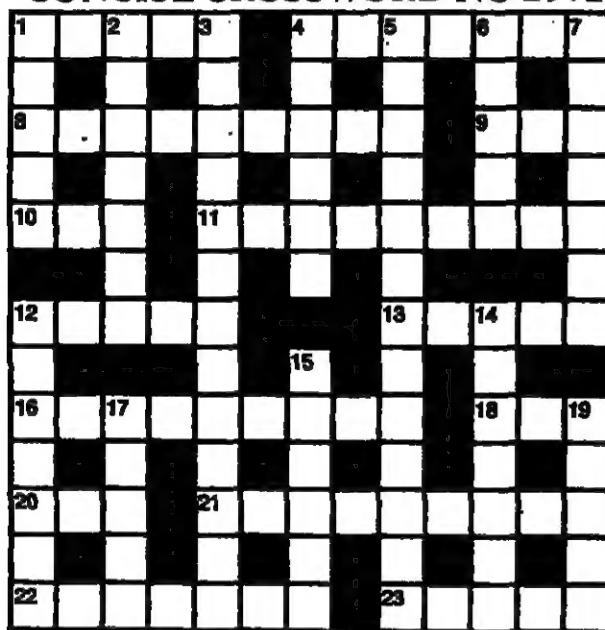
getting the decision in America. Maloney said yesterday: "I can say Lennox's next fight for the title will almost certainly be in Las Vegas in early March. Without coming to any firm decision, we are thinking of Alex Stewart, Ray Mercer and Francesco Damiani"

Let us hope, for Lewis's sake, that Maloney gets his new year wish. Sulaiman has said that Lewis will not be allowed a couple of easy defences first, but have to face Tucker. "It is the third year in which the heavyweight title has not had a mandatory defence," he said. "The world deserves to

see the two best fighters. Lennox is willing but Bowe is not willing. Lennox must defend against Tony Tucker first, otherwise we would not have been right to strip Riddick Bowe."

Wild West days, page 34

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2972



ACROSS

- 1 Overturn (3,2)
- 2 Sozzled (7)
- 3 Quick money earner (3,6)
- 4 Chafe (3)
- 5 Loud outcry (3,3,3)
- 6 Special surprise (5)
- 7 Clear (5)
- 8 Morally improving (9)
- 9 High-pitched cry (3)
- 10 Lorry driver's licence (1,1,1)
- 11 Darken (9)
- 12 Escapist (7)

DOWN

- 1 Candle spill (5)
- 2 Drinkable (7)
- 3 Cessandre (7,2,4)
- 4 Plant male gametes (6)
- 5 In time sequence (1,3)
- 6 Syrings (5)
- 7 Unmowed (3,4)
- 8 Affected (7)
- 9 Plant starter mixture (7)
- 10 In a line (6)
- 11 River embankment (5)
- 12 Make broader (5)

23 Roman language (5)

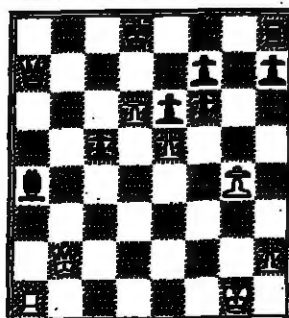
SOLUTIONS TO NO 2971

ACROSS: 1 Skived 5 Regime 8 Emit 9 Chutzpah 10 Slalom 12 Type 15 Quick tempered 16 Ugly 17 Abrupt 19 Obstruct 21 Jape 22 Snared 23 Demure

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By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

This position is a possible conclusion of the game Plaskett — Mestel, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1986/87. Former British champion James Plaskett is very dangerous in attacking situations. This is a fine example — how can he finish black off in this position? British grandmasters Nunn and Speedman will be among the eight players in the top section at this year's Hastings



Solution on page 31.

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By PHILIP HOWARD

- PASSEL**
a. A parcel
b. Pepper, not salt
c. To jump and spin on roller-skates
- RESPONAUT**
a. A great non-co-operator
b. A patient dependent on a respirator
c. A life-boat sailor

- PULUT**
a. Glutinous rice
b. A small ornamental fowl
c. A New Guinea language
- BINANT**
a. Half of a circle
b. An amphibian
c. A pocket sextant

Answers on page 31

Premier League in second-string vote

By LOUISE TAYLOR

SHOULD the Premier League have a second division? That is the question which will engage the minds of its 22 chairmen when they meet in London this morning. Ron Noades, the Crystal Palace chairman, has written to clubs suggesting the formation of a Premier League second division, and his counterparts will be asked to vote on the proposal today.

The consensus seems to be that the Noades plan, which thus far has lacked backing from the Football Association, will be rejected — for the moment. Yet as one Barclays League club chairman said yesterday: "A second division of the Premier League will almost certainly happen, probably in two-and-a-half years' time."

The Football League, however, believes that its leading clubs are not about to defect. As an adjunct to the Premier League, their voting rights would be severely restricted and if they were offered ten per

cent of Premier League income — the sum envisaged by Noades — clubs would be much better off remaining in the League's first division.

David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman, will also propose that the Premier League be restricted to 18 members, but that will not go to the vote today.

It is the first meeting of the 22 chairmen since Noades inspired a walk-out of their last get-together in September, when eight clubs blocked a central £10 million sponsorship package on offer from Bass.

Gordon Durie, the Tottenham Hotspur striker, appeals against a conviction of feigning injury by the Football Association (FA) today.

The FA must decide whether to implement or revoke a three-match suspension for cheating imposed nine weeks ago. Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, will defend Durie.

Aberdeen need to deny Rangers

By RODDY FORSYTH

ABERDEEN will attempt to block Rangers' seemingly inexorable march towards another premier division title when they meet the Scottish champions in a rearranged fixture at Pittodrie tonight. Aberdeen lie second in the table ahead of Celtic on goal difference and four points behind Rangers, but the Ibrox team have a game in hand against Dundee United and a victory tonight would put them in an extremely commanding position one game short of the halfway stage in their league programme.

On recent form, Aberdeen can regard themselves as the most serious pretenders to Rangers' crown, but whether they also have the necessary consistency is a matter still to be resolved. When the teams first met at Ibrox on August 29, Aberdeen looked resolute when they led by a goal from Aitken at half-time, but they collapsed under Rangers' pressure after Durrant equalised and were lucky to escape with a 3-1 defeat. In the Skol Cup final in October, they

matched Rangers pace for pace into extra-time and the contest seemed certain to proceed to a penalty kick decider when the young Aberdeen defender, Smith, headed the ball into his own net.

The same tendency to undo good work was seen on Saturday when Aberdeen visited Tannadice to play Dundee United, who had not been beaten by their northern neighbours for two years. Aberdeen led 2-0 with 15 minutes to go but allowed United to come back into the game and force a draw.

The Aberdeen manager, Willie Miller, said yesterday: "There is no point in us playing good football and scoring spectacular goals if we let teams off the hook and this is something I have spoken to the players about a few times this season. If we had taken two points on Saturday, we would have been in a position to reduce the gap between ourselves and Rangers to one point, but our consolation is that there is a long way to go yet."

"We have to meet Rangers three times and Celtic twice

before the end of the season so a lot can change yet."

Meanwhile, Alex Totten, the former St Johnstone manager who became the first premier division managerial casualty of the season when he was dismissed on Monday, has received widespread support and sympathy from other Scottish managers. Totten was sacked because his chairman, Geoff Brown, believed the club was failing to make progress, despite the fact that they lie seventh in the table and had lost only one fixture in their previous seven matches.

Alex MacDonald, the man-

ager of Airdrieonians, said yesterday: "There are too many chairmen who think their clubs can compete with Rangers and Celtic, something which is absolutely impossible but which breeds fear amongst managers."

Alan McGraw, the Morton manager, said: "I wouldn't treat a dog the way Alex Totten was treated. Geoff Brown, who claims to be his friend. Unless clubs have enormous sums of money to spend, they will never be able to live alongside Rangers and Celtic, but there are a few chairmen who don't seem to be able to accept that fact."

Christie to end career with lucrative sponsorship deal

By JOHN GOODBODY

LINFORD Christie will be paid a total of £500,000 to wear Puma shoes and clothing for his last two years in international sprinting.

It is probably the biggest equipment-deal signed by a British athlete, and is the latest example of the popularity of the Olympic 100 metres champion and his ability to make money now that he has set up his own agency to represent himself and other competitors.

Christie, who has been voted both athlete and sportsman of the year, and Colin Jackson, the European and Commonwealth 110 metres hurdles champion, will lead Puma's £3 million advertising and promotions campaign in Britain, which will begin in March.

Christie, 33, is planning for two final seasons of international sprinting, which will include the 1993 world and European championships and the Commonwealth Games in 1994.

He is also hoping for a "race of pride" next year against Carl Lewis, his predecessor as Olympic 100 metres champion, who did not run in

the event in Barcelona because he failed to qualify at the United States trials.

Christie said: "This is a race that is going to happen. I would like it to be held at a meeting in Britain." However, he said he would also consider taking part in three races: one in the United States, one in the United Kingdom and one on neutral territory.

"It will be a very sad day when I retire but I have to have a realistic limit. My

ambition has always been to be the greatest athlete Britain has produced and I want to go out on top. I know I will not win another Olympics."

Christie has been preparing for his career after 1994 by setting up an agency with Jackson called Nuff Respect. They want to show that they are not just "athletics bimbos", and have saved themselves the 15 to 25 per cent of an agent's fees.

Mark McKoy, the Olympic 110 metres hurdles champion from Canada, has joined them and they have had enquiries from other athletes, footballers and rugby players. Not only is the agency a lucrative enterprise when the two British athletes are competing, but there is also the possibility of them going into business full-time after retiring from competition. Christie said: "When you finish your athletics career it can sometimes be difficult to find jobs."

Christie and Jackson have also set up a fan club, called LCI, which will work independently of the agency. Christie receives about 200 fan letters a week.



Christie: taking charge

Golf safely over its first hazard

Lausanne: The programme

commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday took a first step towards including golf in the 1996 Olympics. The Atlanta organisers are proposing that 72-hole tournaments for men and women should be held over the Augusta National course, which hosts the Masters, with entry open to both amateurs and professionals.

The commission chairman, Philippe Chatrier, of France, said the 16-member panel had agreed unanimously to forward the formal application from the World Amateur Golf Council to a meeting of the IOC executive board in March. If the proposal passes there, a full committee session in June must give final approval.

Billy Payne, chairman of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, acknowledged yesterday that there was some work to do to defuse controversy over the venue.

The Atlanta city council recently voted against the plan because of the make-up of Augusta's membership — it has one black and no women members.

CLEAR WINNER.



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Annus horribilis? Far from it. 1992 will always be thought of as a rather good year by Gonzalez Byass. After all, it's not every year that one is chosen as Fortified Winemaker of the Year from over 5000 entrants.

Not quite an Annus mirabilis, but close.

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